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LETTERS
ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT
OF
Gov. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PERRY'S
"Letters to His Wife."

APRIL 27, 1891.

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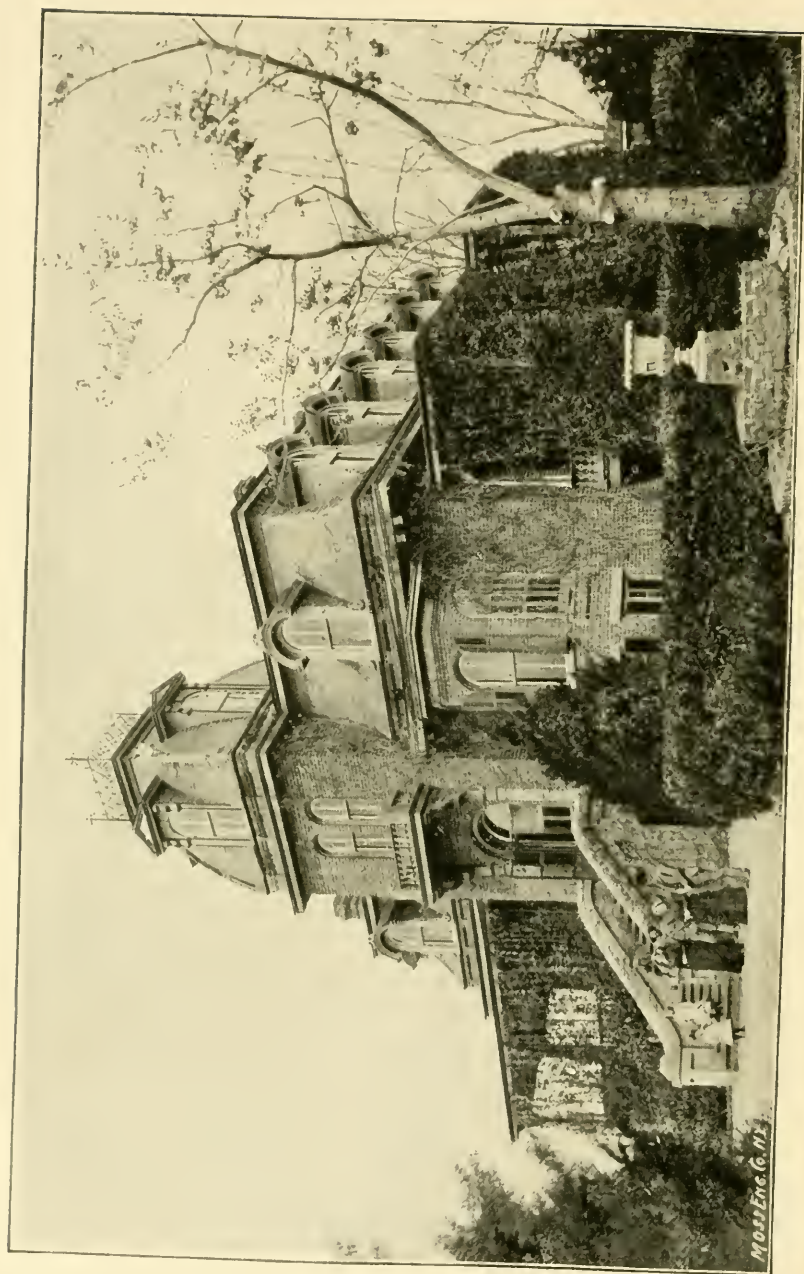
With best wishes & regards of

Ms B. F. Perry.

Sam Souci. Greenville.

South Carolina.

June 30, 1891.



Moskva 6. 11.

SANS-SOUCI.

WITH RESPECTS OF MRS. B. F. PERRY.

April 27, 1891.

LETTERS

ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF

Gov. Benjamin Franklin Perry's

"LETTERS TO HIS WIFE."

"Oh, be he king or subject, he's most blest,
Who in his 'Home' finds happiness and peace."

IN MEMORY
OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR MARRIAGE.
APRIL 27, 1837—APRIL 27, 1891.

"He has I know not what
Of greatness in his looks, and of high fate,
That almost awes me."

1891:
SHANNON & CO., PRINTERS,
GREENVILLE, S. C.

F274
. P45

"A man never so beautifully shows his own strength as when he respects a woman's softness."

DEDICATED
TO
OUR CHILDREN,
MRS. WILLIAM BEATTIE,
HON. WILLIAM HAYNE PERRY,
DR. HEXT M. PERRY,
BENJ. FRANKLIN PERRY,
AND
OUR GRAND CHILDREN,
B. F. PERRY BEATTIE,
EMILY EDGEWORTH BEATTIE.

WILLIAM BEATTIE PERRY,
ANNA PERRY,
WILLIE HAYNE PERRY,
BENJ. FRANKLIN PERRY,
HEXT M. PERRY.

With the prayer that they may follow the noble example
of their Parent,
Both in public and private life.

"There is in the heart of woman such a deep well of love, that no age
can freeze it."

SANS SOUCI, GREENVILLE, S. C., APRIL 27th, 1891.



B. H. Povey

INTRODUCTION.

"Superiority to circumstances is exactly what distinguishes and marks the great man."

The hundreds of letters received acknowledging the receipt of "Governor Benjamin Franklin Perry's Letters to his Wife," have given his "wife" more pleasure and gratification than words can express. To afford our children and their descendants the same pleasure, some of the letters are printed, so as to preserve them in a durable form. One hundred and twenty-three have been selected from the many beautiful ones received. Thanks are due the friends who have been so kind in expressing their high appreciation of the "Letters," and encouraged the "wife" in her labor of love, and for so justly esteeming her husband's noble character, both in public and private life. With confidence can it be said, that the perusal of this book will increase and not diminish the exalted opinion formed of Governor Perry's character.

"Proud was his tone, but calm ; his eye
Had that compelling dignity ;
His mien that bearing haught and high,
Which common spirits fear."

ERRATA.

On page 53, for *Blagkstone* read Blackstone.

On page 104, for *dreams* read claims.

On page 108, for Dec. 16th, 1836 read 1846.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Adams, Col. James P.....	32
Aldrich, Judge James.....	74
Andrews, Mrs. Amelia W.....	63
Armstrong, Miss Minnie.....	39
Austin, W. G.....	69
Averill, C. N.....	90
Avery, Col. I. W.—Sketch of Gov. B. F. Perry...	118
Bacot, D. Huger.....	98
Baer, Dr. H., Review of Gov. Perry's Letters to his Wife.....	107
Boyce, Rev. James P.....	113
Boykin, Col. E. Miller.....	33
Brackett, Rev. Gilbert R.....	43, 44
Bratton, Gen. John.....	46
Brown, Col. John N.....	83, 84
Brooks, Col. J. Hampden.....	79
Bryce, Dr. Peter.....	67
Bunting, Rev. Oscar S.....	57
Buist, Hon. George Lamb.....	93
Burnet, Hon. Andrew W.....	23
Burnet, Dr. Andrew W.....	20
Burruss, Henry Page.....	35, 36
Calhoun, John J.....	29
Calhoun, Miss Eliza.....	54
Campbell, Rev. William H.....	51
Cannon, Hon. Gabriel.....	82
Capers, Rev. William T.....	8
Capers, Rev. Ellison.....	7
Carlisle, Rev. James H.....	92
Clifton, Rev. J. A.....	96
Crawford, Hon. Andrew.....	30
Crittenden, Hon. Stanley S.....	21
Croft, Hon. George W.....	26
Davidson, John.....	101
Desportes, R. S.....	75
Davis, Zimmerman.....	97
Dibble, Hon. Samuel.....	9
Downman, Rev. John Y.....	73
Dowse, Miss Mary E.....	37
DuBose, Col. John Witherspoon.....	17, 18, 55
Duncan, Robert Perry.....	14
Fuller, Miss Phœbe.....	54
Furman, Rev. James C., Review of Erskine Ad- dress.....	104

	PAGE
Furman, Capt. Charles M., Sketch of the life of Gov. B. F. Perry.....	115
Furman, McDonald.....	86
Gass, Rev. John.....	88
Gilreath, Belton.....	68
Hampton, Gen. Wade.....	78
Hayne, Wm. Alston.....	19
Hazard, Walter.....	75
Hemphill, J. C.....	27
Heyward, Julius H.....	97
Hilliard, Hon. Henry W., ...	70, 88
Hudson, Judge J. H.....	73
Huger, Dr. Wm. H.....	99
Huntington, Bishop Frederic D.....	11
Huntington, Rev. Wm. R.....	13
Hutson, Prof. Charles Woodward.....	64
Ingersoll, Hon. Colin M.....	65
Jackson, Bishop H. Melville.....	117
Johnston, Gen. George D.....	80
Johnston, Col. William.....	84
Jones, Lambert J.....	77
Joyner, Rev. Edmund N.....	12
Judson, Prof. Charles H.....	86
Judson, Miss Mary C.....	69
Kennerly, William C.....	32
Kershaw, Judge John B.....	11
Kershaw, Rev. John.....	56
Lanneau, Mrs. John.....	40
Lea, Judge John M.....	5
Le Conte, Prof. Joseph.....	12
Lee, Gen. G. W. Custis.....	67
Martin, Hon. John M.....	76
Martin, Robert Hayne.....	74
McCaa, Eugene M., Review of Gov. Perry's writ- tings	110
McCaa, Eugene M.....	49
Moore, Maurice A.....	59, 60
Morrison, Mrs. Mary E., "Notice of Sans Souci"	106
Mundy, Rev. J. A.....	80
Neeson, Mrs. R	39
Nelson, Mrs. Anson.....	42
Nowell, Mrs. Mildred E.....	79
Page, Thomas Nelson.....	100
Patterson, Hon. Giles J.....	93
Patton, Prof. E. L.....	95
Peabody, Rev. Andrew P.....	29
Perry, Bishop William Stevens.....	100
Perry, Hon. Amos.....	81
Perry, Mrs. Carrie S.....	31

CONTENTS.

VII

	PAGE
Prince, Gen. W. Lowndes T.....	87
Pinckney, Rev. Charles Cotesworth.....	26
Powe, Dr. James H.....	85
Pressley, Judge B. C.....	22, 71
Pringle, Wm. Alston.....	34
Reese, Col. Frank M.....	103
Rhett, Col. John Taylor.....	47
Richardson, Mrs. Gov. John P.....	66
Riggs, John S.....	102
Robson, John N.....	91
Rutledge, Gen. B. H.....	94
Sass, G. Herbert.....	28
Seabrook, Dr. J. G.....	72
Seabrook, R. E.....	47
Simkins, Lewis Wardlaw.....	85
Simonton, Judge Charles H.....	6
Simpson, Chief Justice W. D.....	96
Sojourner, D. Paul.....	58
Smith, Rev. A. Coke.....	6
Smith, D. E. Huger.....	94
Smythe, Hon. Augustine T.....	99
Spencer, Julian Murray.....	61, 62
Thomas, Col. John P.....	95
Thompson, Rev. W. T.....	86
Townes, Hon. George F.....	30
Tupper, Hon. Samuel.....	45
Whaley, B. J.....	52
Whitsitt, Rev. William H.....	57
Williams, George W.....	34
Wilmer, Bishop Richard H.....	10
Wilson, Rev. Robert.....	97
Winthrop, Gov. Robert C.....	16



Elizabeth F. Perry.

LETTERS.

[From Judge John M. Lea, of the Historical Society of Nashville, and formerly Judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, to whom the letters were sent to criticise before given to the public. He is one of the wisest, most refined and noble gentleman our country has ever produced. His approval is sufficient to authorize the propriety of the Letters being published.]

NASHVILLE, TENN., January 5, 1890.

Mrs. B. F. Perry—*Dear Madam*—I acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the “Letters of my Father to my Mother.” I assure you the reading of them has not only afforded pleasure, but confirmed the impression I have always entertained of the dignity, worth and excellence of human nature. There is certainly a spark of divinity in man. These letters were written with no view to publicity—the utterances were in the recesses of private confidence—and yet there is not a line that the author would be ashamed for the whole world to read. This fact shows *character*. You say I admire your husband—indeed I do. He was pure in private as in public life. He was no *actor*. To high intellectual qualities, literary acquirements, professional standing and fervent patriotism, were added the gentle graces which mark the good man, and the Christian, of which these letters are an evidence. Again I thank you, and let me express my admiration for the devotion which you pay to the memory of so good a husband and so great a man.

I have derived much pleasure from reading the letters, and Mrs. Lea (who has the book now in her hands) is equally charmed, and does me the honor to say they remind her of the letters she received from me, only that my letters were not so full of expressions of love. I tell her that she has forgotten what I did write. The letters written after marriage show the true, good, affectionate husband. I have not seen in any letter a word or a sentence that required suppression. The photograph and the picture of “Sans Souci” will ornament the walls of our house, alongside of those we love, and I thank you for sending

them to me, nor could you have sent to one who would prize them more highly.

I feel very much honored by the printing of my letter as an appendix to the collection. The association of my name with Governor Perry's is indeed an honor; and, Madam, if you feel kindly to me because I express admiration for your husband, I am glad. I believe Governor Perry was an unselfish patriot—a brave man who would have suffered martyrdom for what he believed to be the truth; who had the courage to side in a minority of *one*, when he thought he was right—a good man and a great man—and I am glad that in the declining years of my life, though I never saw him, I made his acquaintance through his writings.

May Providence smile on you in age as it did in youth.

Very sincerely your friend,

JOHN M. LEA.

UNITED STATES COURTS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA,
CHARLESTON, S. C., 13th May, 1890.

My Dear Madam—The express yesterday brought me the beautiful volume containing the first series of Gov. Perry's letters to you. I am reading the book with a great deal of interest, and it is the best biography you could give of Gov. Perry. The get up of the book, type, paper and binding are unusually good. I thank you very much for it.

Your series of letters inspires me more favorably the more I read them. As I said to you before, it is an excellent biography, and at the same time the letters give a lifelike glance at our old civilization and society, which are fast becoming tradition.

With great respect, Yours truly,

CHARLES H. SIMONTON.

WOFFORD COLLEGE, SPARTANBURG, S. C.,
April 24, 1890.

My dear Madam—The volume, "Letters of Gov. Perry to his Wife," which you so kindly sent me some days since, brings me under renewed obligations to you for kind and

thoughtful consideration. Please accept my thanks for this most interesting volume. I have read it with great delight. It is a delicate matter to draw aside the curtain and let the public see the home-life of a man; and but few men could bear such a test. But every view of your honored husband brings out the splendid proportions of his character; and this look into his heart and his home reveals the wealth of fond affection which he lavished upon his loved ones, and shows how tenderly he cared for those he loved while the weight of great public responsibilities rested upon him.

The picture of pure and manly love which is presented in his letters to his *fiancee* and to his *young* wife is as tender and lovely as the figure he made afterwards in his country's history was noble and great.

Permit me, my dear Madam, to thank *you* for this exhibition of wifely affection which embalms the memory of your husband in such enduring and devoted love.

With assurances of highest esteem, I am

Your obedient servant,

A. COKE SMITH.

RECTORY, COLUMBIA, S. C., April 9th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I have just finished reading the "Letters of Gov. Perry to his Wife," written in 1842-1846, inclusive, which you kindly sent me. Home-like, affectionate, and natural, these letters give your friends an insight into Gov. Perry's character which nothing else could give. The sketches, now and then, of public men and political events, and the references they make to social life in Columbia, and the frequent mention of names dear and honored in our State, give interest to the letters and make the reading of them interesting. But the Governor's constant thought of his home life; his feeling of home-sickness; his consideration for his children, never forgetting to bring them presents; his concern for the horses and the cows and the hogs; his directions for the servants and his consideration for *them*; and his natural and loving messages to you all, written amid the cares of court, or the duties of his Senatorial life, show how these home feelings

and sentiments of devotion to domestic life formed a part, and a great part, of his character.

His writing to you just after dislocating his wrist and breaking his arm, and his going into court the next day to plead a cause for his client, show the *heroic* in his character; while his impulse to shed tears, on seeing a striking likeness to his *father* in the face of John Q. Adams, when they met in Washington, and his resolution, instantly formed, never to say ought against him again, shows how true he was to the truest affections and sentiments of the human heart.

I *knew* Gov. Perry to be *such a man*, but I have enjoyed reading over the letters for the information they give of other things, and because it is delightful to find how universal the human heart is, and how consecrated in every true soul are the endearing associations and holy affections of our homes. And yet, my dear friend, how transient is all that we hold dear here! How few of the men he speaks of are now living! And how altered the lives and the circumstances of those who survive! And what transformations in the life of our State and country have occurred since your husband and Mr. Memminger voted in our Legislature against the expulsion from the State of Mr. Hoar! And how certain that we, too, must ere long leave this scene of our duties, our toils and our loves! May we enter the rest that remaineth, my dear Mrs. Perry, and may our families unite in our Father's house in Heaven where there are no partings, where death cannot come, and where every faculty of our souls will find eternal peace and joy. Most truly your friend,

ELLISON CAPERS.

GEORGETOWN, S. C., July 12th, 1890.

Dear Madam—Returning from Pawley's Island the day before yesterday I found at the express office your beautiful gift. I assure you I value it for many reasons.

First, because it gives me a picture of the heart of one who long stood in the front rank of the manliest men.

Secondly, because it gives me a picture of the graceful clinging vine that twined around that majestic oak.

Thirdly, because it gives me a lovely picture of a happy home, a grand father, loving mother and dutiful children.

And I value it too for its historical glimpses.

And lastly, it brings out on the picture gallery of memory, the sweet, seraphic face of your darling Anna, than whom no teacher ever taught a lovelier pupil.

I thank you, dear madam, for remembering me kindly. May the evening of your life at Sans Souci be without a cloud to obscure the stars of your sky—memory and hope. I am, dear Mrs. Perry,

Most respectfully and gratefully,

WM. T. CAPERS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I received to-day the volume of Letters of your distinguished husband written to yourself, and return my thanks for your kind consideration in sending it to me. I sat down this evening in my room and read many of them, and as they revealed to me the picture of a happy married life, I could but think of the fortunate influence of home upon one's career in life. Gov. Perry was one of South Carolina's great men, one who thought for himself, and gave honest, patriotic and fearless utterance to opinions formed with judgment and calm deliberation; but I hope you will not consider me as using language of flattery in attributing to your earnest and sympathizing interest, a large share in having stimulated and encouraged his efforts to such honorable and distinguished successes. The volume dedicated to your children and grandchildren will stimulate those of many generations to emulate the admirable traits of their illustrious ancestor, exemplified in the correspondence you have so faithfully preserved.

I could not but reflect that, in the publication of Gov. Perry's reminiscences and other literary and political productions, a service has been rendered to the State, also, in preserving in permanent and enduring form, for the youth of South Carolina, knowledge of the men who maintained, in days gone by, the honor and glorious name of a com-

menwealth rich in the prestige of noble deeds by noble sons. Living, as Gov. Perry did, in the midst of events of great historic interest, and being himself one of those who occupied a leading and prominent position during days of great emergency, his acts and utterances are lessons to us, and to those who will succeed us in the responsibilities of public life, teaching us by precept and example the duties of the citizen and the patriot.

These letters, taken as a whole, present a picture of the past, with its tour of daily life so different from that of the present, that one can hardly realize that a few decades only have wrought such changes.

And, though we call it "progress," it is doubtful whether our people are to-day happier, wiser or better than our elders were, forty years ago. It must therefore be to you a comfort and a solace, to live over again in memory a life replete with so many propitious incidents and joyous hours. Thanking you for the valued gift just received, I beg to subscribe myself,

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,

SAMUEL DIBBLE.

DIOCESE OF ALABAMA,

SPRING HILL, Oct. 22d, 1890.

My Dear Mrs. Perry—I feel highly honored by your valued gifts "The Sketches" and "The Tribute." I have read with the deepest interest the "Tribute," and am reading from time to time, as opportunity offers, the "Sketches." As I read, I am increasingly struck by the reflection that no one of the great men of whom he writes surpasses—if indeed equals—your honored husband in the possession of that greatest of attributes—*The will to do right!* As I see the perpetual manifestation of that Godlike quality in all his conduct through a stormy and eventful life, his character rises before me until it reaches the sublime! Happy the woman who won so true a heart!

"The memory of the just

Is fragrant when it sleeps in dust."

Yours faithfully—may I say affectionately?—

RICHARD H. WILMER,

DIOCESE OF NEW YORK,

SYRACUSE, Oct. 7th, 1890.

My dear Friend—You have shown me great and kind consideration, quite beyond all my expectation or deserving. Your valuable and touching gifts and letter have been left here for me during my long absence at my old homestead in Hadley, Massachusetts, and on returning for the season I have just opened the package. How good you are to cherish so faithful a remembrance of the slight attention I showed your son thirty years ago! I find the explanation in these burning letters of passionate love and devotion which you have for an imperishable treasure, for they uncover not only the writer's heart but your own as well. To be loved and so admired by so lofty and noble a spirit and so wise a man is a rare privilege and a high honor. You must live much in that beautiful and blessed past.

You must, I fear, have thought me negligent. I hasten therefore to acknowledge gratefully both the volumes and your precious words, sending you at the same time a copy of my late annual address, which is much more personal than usual. Most respectfully and sincerely yours,

FREDERIC D. HUNTINGTON.

CAMDEN, S. C., April 28th, 1890.

My dear Madam—I have to acknowledge most gratefully the receipt of the volumes of Gov. Perry's Letters to you, so kindly sent me. They would have been acknowledged before but for my continued ill-health. The letters are indeed a valuable contribution to the literature of our State and times. They illustrate most happily the domestic virtues which characterized the best families of the South in the old *regime*, so little comprehended, and so greatly maligned by the ignorant and prejudiced.

I have examined them with great pleasure and interest. They have refreshed my memory of many social and personal incidents, as well as public events and persons, once most familiar to me. They take me back in memory to the time when Governor Perry examined me for admission to the Bar, as one of a committee of examination, com-

posed of some of the distinguished gentlemen so frequently mentioned in the letters, as among his intimates and friends, and with whom (young as I was) I had the privilege of a most agreeable intercourse in those days. I am especially pleased with the beautiful illustrations of these charming books. I think them exceptionally good. "Sans Souci" is admirably represented, and vividly reminds me of the many pleasant hours which I have enjoyed there when so kindly and hospitably entertained by the Governor and yourself. I beg to be most kindly remembered to Mrs. Beattie and such other members of your family as may be with you at this time.

With sincere and grateful thanks for your many kindnesses, I am truly and respectfully yours,

JOHN B. KERSHAW.

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY,
BERKELEY, CALA., May 30th, 1890.

Dear Madam—I have received your beautiful volumes—beautiful in their appearance, still more beautiful in their contents. They are indeed a noble record of a noble life. The picture there given of domestic life and conjugal love is almost ideal in its beauty and rarely realized in this world. Surely the contemplation of such a life cannot but elevate the reader and help him to realize it also.

With many reverent memories of your noble husband and grateful remembrances of yourself, I remain, madam,

Very sincerely yours, JOSEPH LECONTE.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 4th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I received by express, a few days ago, the books you were so thoughtful as to send me. "Letters of Gov. Benjamin Franklin Perry to his Wife." I thank you, with all my heart, for the privilege of owning the books and reading the letters. They are in many respects a study to me of great interest. In the first place, they show how a man of intense firmness and solidity of character, one in a high degree qualified to battle with all

the rugged forces of life, can be tenderly touched by those holier amuniments which alone make life blossom and bear the fruit which makes it endurable.

Some self-appraised strong men pretend to scout at love. Notso your noble husband. Evidently he loved as fiercely and as truly as he battled for the right in all things.

Then, am I struck by the manner in which he touched, even in his "love-letters", upon public affairs, showing how thoroughly, in the early professional days, he understood men and things. His keen and masterful analysis of persons and events, sometimes in a brief sentence, sometimes more *in extenso*, is most charming to observe.

One can observe, too, throughout these letters, written to you, and then not dreaming that others should share them with you, how he was treading his way to those high principles and that lofty estimate of duty the determined practice of which has made him a guide-post in the history of this State and land. Under the sanctity of such letters, men write out their honest selves.

It is pathetic to read of his longing for home when away for wife and children, and with other refreshing features shows that, brave and stern as he might be when danger or duty required, yet his heart easily kindled with the sentiments which have glorified the best of men.

What sacred memories must have come to you while preparing these letters! I sympathize with you, my dear friend, and again thank you for honoring me with the books. Affectionately yours, EDMUND N. JOYNER.

GRACE CHURCH RECTORY, New York, July 2. 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—Your volume of "Letters" reached me just as I am on the point of leaving home for my summer vacation, so that I have only time just now to acknowledge the receipt of them, and to thank you for your kindness in sending them. In running my eye over the pages I can see how full of personal interest the letters are. The pictures add much to the general effect.

I am much interested to learn that your son and my class mate "Perry" are one and the same person. I remember him well. Possibly he will also remember me.

Proud am I, too, for the sake of "'59," that he has done so well, and is now a member of Congress from South Carolina. Pray remember me to him most kindly. Memminger was also another South Carolinian of the same class.

Bishop Huntington, who was at that time in the Unitarian ministry and preacher to Harvard University, is no relation of mine, for we have to go back to 1660 to find a common ancestor, but he is a very dear friend. I studied divinity under his oversight, and was his assistant at Emanuel Church, Boston, after he had become an Episcopalian. Believe me with great respect and regard,

Most truly and sincerely yours,

W. R. HUNTINGTON.

LOUISVILLE, KY., July 3, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I received, with great pleasure, the first series of the letters of Gov. B. F. Perry, to yourself, in the form of a memorial volume, but have not received the other series you mentioned as having been sent to me. I trust they may come to hand very soon, for I shall take great pleasure in reading them all.

To say that I was early taught, and early learned, to admire and love your lamented husband, needs no assurance from me. I was but a lad when he was at the zenith of his achievements as a lawyer and statesman, and I remember that he was a beau ideal with me of the highest type of a heroic manhood. I remember how I would seek the Court house at Greenville during the trial of some famous case, when I was a school and college boy, to hear Maj. Perry especially in his splendid arguments upon the "law and the fact."

As I remember, he was unequalled at the bar in the Greenville Judicial Circuit, in moral force and forensic ability, with both Court and jury. There was a sublime dignity of conscious right; an incorruptible integrity in the manner and speech of Maj. Perry that commanded respect and won the admiration of all who knew or heard him. He had no weak points. He stood above reproach and beyond criticism from any just basis. As playful and

genial as a child with those he respected and loved, he was as bold, courageous and fearless as a lion in the assertion of his convictions, and the firm and unyielding maintenance of his principles; and unsparing in his unrelenting condemnation of corruption and vice, whether in "Prince or Peasant."

No political or judicial history of South Carolina would be full or complete without the recital of his political and forensic achievements. He was in truth a power in the land, "a giant among giants," who grappled for the mastery and control of the destiny of our gallant little Palmetto State.

Times without number I have listened with deepening attention and interest to my father's recital of the high estimate he placed upon the life and character of your lamented husband. They represented for many years the District of Greenville in the State Legislature, and were from boyhood and early manhood, and through a long life-time, most intimate and cordial in their friendships, personal and political. I have heard from my earliest recollection, my father recite your noble husband's many virtues; tell of his incorruptible and stainless life and character; of his sublime moral and physical courage under the most exacting and difficult circumstances, in which he had been his closest and most confidential friend. Learned and patient in his labors, he stood easily among the first in his profession in his day. Strong in all the wisdom that can adorn and brighten the life and character of a pure and incorruptible citizen, he was a patriot of unblemished record, and of the most heroic mould. His name and fame he bequeathed as a priceless legacy to his family and friends, while the brightest pages of the history of South Carolina will bear the record of his name and achievements.

I commend the sentiment of an affectionate memory that prompted the publication of Gov. Perry's letters to yourself, first as his *fiancee*, then as his fond and devoted wife. The reading of them is refining and elevating. The closer the public can get to the inner hearth-stone life, the best thoughts of so just and pure a man and patriot, the stronger the moral lessons taught and the better appre-

hended. These letters are but the pure and simple utterances and expressions of the heart-beats of a man *sans peur et sans reproche*; a model husband, father and friend.

But I did not intend, my dear madam, to write you at such length, and I trust you will pardon my intruding so far. But your note and the most acceptable gift seemed like "sounds from home," and they certainly recalled the sweetest memory of a "vanished hand" that was so strong and faithful in all the conflicts of life.

With my best wishes, and the prayer that your declining years may be brightened and sweetened by the fond recollections of a happy past, as well as by an earnest and assured hope of the future promised to "the faithful" here, I am sincerely and cordially,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT PERRY DUNCAN.

UPLANDS, BROOKLINE, MASS., 5 June, 1890.

Dear Madam—The letters of your lamented husband to yourself have reached me by your kindness, and I have read the volumes with interest. You have surely left nothing undone to illustrate the character and perpetuate the memory of Governor Perry. Few characters bear so complete an unveiling, and few memories owe so much to a wife's devotion. It presents a charming picture of domestic affection. I was glad to find my own name kindly mentioned in one of the Governor's letters from Washington, and am sorry that I did not see more of him there or in Boston. The portraits are exceedingly good, particularly that of yourself.

It will give me pleasure to send a volume or two, at some future day, to the "Perry Library," agreeably to your request. Meantime believe me, with sincere thanks for your gift,

Yours, respectfully and truly,

ROBT. C. WINTPROP.

MRS. EX. GOV. PERRY.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 30, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I duly received the volume of letters. It is a luxury to read them. The heart was true and brave that inspired them. They are the quicksilver behind the glass that reflects a rare felicity and a happy home. I thank you sincerely for affording me this additional opportunity to study the life of a remarkable man. I accept the books also as a delightful reminder of your own repeated acts of kindness to me, all of which I appreciate. It is seldom one sees a good letter in print, but Gov. Perry's were too useful to the world to be consigned to obscurity, and you are a public benefactor in publishing the letters. I have read them with a strange fascination. I thank you sincerely for giving me so much pleasure. I now realize that I am acquainted with a strong, noble and affectionate man's life. I have never known a better rounded character than Gov. Perry's. It reminds me of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. You two were wonderfully suited to each other and your home was a perfect home. I think Dr. Hext M. Perry's face bears a striking resemblance to yours as shown in your pictures. The letters are simply perfect. Your husband was always your lover, very devoted. I have no doubt Gov. Perry's diary is full of most valuable information about his times. It is a monument in itself to him.

The publications you have made are data of invaluable worth in making history. The Judges of the Court of Appeals congratulated Gov. Perry on your briefs—the briefs you had copied. Now the type-writer takes down all briefs, and a lawyer would be afraid to send a MS. brief to a Court of Appeals. Young women in Birmingham are seen in every office taking all kinds of business papers on type-writers. Had the telegraph been in existence Gov. Perry would have sent you a message three times a day. But I wonder if people love as much in these fast days as in the earlier times! I am afraid many of the young married men of to-day will never believe anything but that you have sent out a work of fiction in the letters! They hold divorce as a mental reservation in too many cases, whereas divorce was a horror too great to go on the Statute book in South Carolina. By-the-way, your son, Hon.

W. H. Perry, must know my first cousin, Hon. Geo. W. Dargan, in Congress. I bid you good morning, as I write before breakfast, and beg you to accept my renewed thanks, and to believe me,

Most truly your friend,

JOHN W. DuBOSE.

EAST LAKE, ALA., July 13, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I fear my name has lost its rights on your list of correspondents. But I only speak truth when I say that I have so frequently—almost daily—read of you that I can not realize that I have not written. I certainly believed I had thanked you for the treat I had enjoyed in the copy of the first Reminiscences you sent, and had to borrow to send. There are no books like Gov. Perry's writings. The style is so natural one may read even when the narrative is already known by heart. There is a self-evident disposition to be just and to write truth. His view of Mr. Calhoun is particularly striking. He takes as candid view of Mr. Yancey as any one occupying his personal and political relations to him could be expected to take, and more candid, indeed, than any man I know. It was not known at Gov. Perry's time of writing *why* the Confederate Commission to Europe, composed of a number of distinguished men, failed. I hope to explain the facts some day. I have a great deal of original correspondence which the world has never seen, but will see some day. All the world agrees with Gov. Perry that Mr. Yancey's influence lead to breaking up the Union. There can be no shadow of doubt about that and the fact will be published. Gov. Perry's opinion that Mr. Yancey went to the Charleston Convention to prevent the concession of the South to the North is also correct. But for Mr. Yancey, I believe Alabama would not have seceded, and Alabama's action determined all the Gulf States. I consider Gov. Perry's general estimate of men, Yancey included, the most lucid and the best in every respect I have ever seen. There is nothing but Plutarch to compare his writings to.

I have read and re-read the two volumes of letters. I have never become acquainted with a more uniformly con-

tented and happy life than the author of those letters. A picture of husband and father drawn from them would be perfect in wisdom and kindness. They give most valuable information, and I do not remember one of the whole series that I would not be ready to read again and again. The author's life was a most exalted manhood.

From a political standpoint I do not think the whole of Gov. Perry's services in the Legislature and the Conventions can compare in importance to his course as Governor. There was but one man in the State who could fill the higher office as he filled it. He might have so ingratiated himself with the powers at Washington as to have secured a lucrative and eminent office. He took no such step. On the contrary he did his duty to South Carolina in such a way as to cut him off forever from favor in high places. This is the crown of his career. Had he put his heel down on the people of the State as Johnson did in Tennessee, Mahone in Virginia, and so on, he could have been Vice President. I say without hesitation, he was the most honest public man I ever knew.

Often do I wish I could have known Gov. Perry, to hear him explain the difference between what was done and what could have been done, for he of all men I know gave that very question most sober and profound thought. I cannot find a paper in his writings on Mr. Jefferson Davis, and I imagine he did not write much about him. I have never thought the time is ripe to take a clear view of that gentleman's public career.

Hoping you are well and that you will pardon my long delay in writing, I remain

Sincerely your friend,

JOHN W. DuBOSE.

SANTA BARBARA, CAL., May 19th, 1890.

My dear Cousin—I received last week the "Letters of Governor Perry," which you kindly sent me, (enclosing therein your letter,) for which I sincerely thank you.

Be assured that my admiration for the entire character of your husband rather *increases*, as time wears off the impression of the scenes and the events which so swayed

the minds of Southern men who lived and participated in the scenes of the *Past*. Undoubtedly, Gov. Perry's judgment and foresight were correct, and his noble conduct, to "*cast in his lot with his State*," at the breaking out of the civil war, was, in the opinion of all Southern men, truly *patriotic*. The perusal of the "Letters" is very interesting to one who lived during the incidents he relates. I have not yet read them regularly, but upon glancing over them, I see so many names of the prominent public men of that day who were well known to me, either personally or by reputation, that the incidents mentioned in connection with them will make the reading of the book more interesting, and will recall to my recollection the memory of the times and the scenes when a nobler and a better class of men existed than they do at this day.

I see allusions also made in places to myself, and altogether the perusal of the "Letters" will be quite interesting. Will you, therefore, please accept my thanks for your kind remembrance of me, and consideration in sending the book to one who entertains as great a respect for the high character of your husband as I do.

My dear cousin, we will never meet each other in this world, may we meet again in the next and better one.

Asking you to kindly present me to my cousins who may be with you, and with the sincere wish for your prolonged happiness and comfort, believe me to be always

Your affectionate cousin,

W. ALSTON HAYNE, SR.

CAMDEN, S. C., Sept. 11th, 1890.

My dear Madam—I received by express the *Reminiscences* of the men of the past of this State with whom your noble husband was associated. Please accept my warmest thanks for this most delightful book. It should be studied by the younger generation, for in reading its pages they are brought face to face with the great men who illustrate their State in the Forum, and they are thereby enabled to look, with unclouded vision, into the dark days, and are made to comprehend the causes which led up to that most fatal of political mistakes, "Separate State Action." This





Arthur M. Perry

dogma certainly has proved the Illiad of all of our woes.

I never had the pleasure of knowing Gov. Perry, but have always admired his sterling worth, and had the highest opinion of his aggressive intellect. He did his own thinking, (a very rare virtue,) and when he arrived at a conclusion it was always just.

I shall treasure the book not only for its great value, but also in memoriam of the noble matron who presented it. Mrs. Burnet joins me in kindest regards. My father is still living, and although he numbers eighty-one years, his intellect is clear and vigorous. I remain, dear madam,

Truly your obliged servant,

A. W. BURNET, M. D.

GREENVILLE, S. C., April 21, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I return you my heartfelt thanks for the handsome volume of "Letters from Governor B. F. Perry to his wife," which you kindly sent me several days ago. I have deferred acknowledging its receipt until I had finished reading it; and now I can tell you how much I have enjoyed its perusal, how interesting to me are its entire contents, and the grateful sense of your kindness in sending it to me which I feel. The letters are especially interesting to me from the fact that I have a distinct recollection of most of the events and most of the persons to whom allusion is made in them. In fact, I have been completely carried back to the Greenville of forty years ago while reading them.

From my boyhood I have loved and revered Governor Perry, and during all that period have been honored with his friendship. I have always read every thing that I have seen that was written by him, and about him, but I must say that this volume has revealed him to me in a light in which I but imperfectly knew him before. I knew always that his great heart was full of love and kindness, but never before knew the depth and tenderness of his love for his home and its cherished inmates.

Lion-hearted as he was among men, and dauntless ever in the face of overwhelming opposition, when championing what he believed to be the cause of truth and right, these

letters shew that his heart was ever filled with the tenderest solicitude for the welfare of his loved ones at home, and continually overflowing with love and devotion to them. True is it

"The bravest are the tenderest,
The loving are the daring."

My family and many of my friends shall enjoy reading these letters, and doubtless will feel as I do that we owe you a debt of gratitude for having published them. With renewed thanks and sincerest regard, I am

Very truly, your friend,

STANLEY S. CRITTENDEN.

SUMMERVILLE, S. C., April 28th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Let me thank you most heartily for the volumes of "Letters" you kindly sent me. They are models, such as I wish all husbands would try to rival. No wonder that you so fondly cherish the memory of him who loved you so faithfully and so dearly as these letters so abundantly prove. I prize them not only as models, but also because they recall so pleasantly to memory the facts and characters of so many honored sons of our State that I used to meet half a century ago. The young men tell me that you are giving them most interesting history of the private life of men of the olden time, which they could never have hoped to get from any other source. Well for them and well for the State, if you shall inspire them with the hope and resolve to win, to labor, and love hearth and wife as your husband loved them. The "Letters" so greatly entertain and delight me, that I have been reading some of them aloud to my dear wife. We take them at intervals like our dessert after dinner. What tender, yet ardent, anti-honeymoon love letters Governor Perry writes. I cannot rationally account for them, except on the supposition that the inspiration came from the "lady" to whom they were written. It was only by sudden inspiration that Howard Payne wrote "Home, Sweet Home," and Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner." If either of them could have been inspired by any other subject, then why did they not write so again? Gov. Perry

has written eloquently on other subjects, but nothing else that has the tender grace of these "Love Letters."

Please give Mrs. Beattie for me my kind regards, and accept for yourself assurance of best wishes for your welfare and happiness.

Very truly yours,

B. C. PRESSLEY.

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 11, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Let me assure you your very kind letter with the books afforded me the highest gratification, and it will give me no little pleasure in carefully reading and in fully enjoying the contents. I have already looked over many of the "Letters" from your dear husband to you, and I may truly affirm they exhibit so much true love and deep affection, in such pure, simple and excellent language and style, as to assure me that you had the felicity of enjoying the possession of a noble and true heart, and that your happiness was placed upon an unfailing basis which nothing could change or shake, so long as life should last. * * * * *

The time has passed to review political disquisitions of events of such disastrous results, though I know you must contemplate with pride and satisfaction the part your distinguished and patriotic husband played during those trying times. I believe many fatal mistakes were made. The beginning of the tragedy was the most unfortunate split of the Democratic party at the Charleston Convention in 1860, and if the policy of Gov. Perry had been adopted, the result would have been different, and the final issue deferred, if not indefinitely postponed.

My wife desires to be remembered to you and to say she has been reading the "Letters" written to you, and that they give her more pleasure than novel reading. She thinks them very beautiful. She is a great genealogist, and in reading the sketches of Eminent American Statesmen, she traces back your descent and hers from a common ancestor, "Mrs. Hext," and is pleased to know that you and her are *cousins*.

I do well remember the happy evenings spent at your dear mother's in New Haven more than fifty years ago,

but could hardly flatter myself with the idea of being retained in your recollection. I am the oldest friend you have.

I served with Gov. Perry in the Legislature during the years 1850-'51-'52 and '53. In reading the speeches I recall the manner and appearance of Gov. Perry when in the Legislature in 1850 he delivered a very eloquent one, which he said he left as a "legacy to his children and his country." I sat near him at the time and have a vivid recollection of the whole affair. I then thought highly of it, but upon the perusal thereof I think it a much abler speech than upon hearing it. I may have thought him haughty and harsh, but the feeling of kindness, respect and regard he exhibits towards many of his opponents, has entirely changed my own views and opinion regarding your distinguished and deeply lamented husband. The likeness taken at the age of seventy-two years, is most exact and shows a wonderful preservation and expression.

I remember very accurately the conversation it was my happiness to have held with your loved and devoted husband in the Legislative hall when I introduced myself and claimed a right to know him from my former intimacy with your dear mother, sisters and above all with yourself his loved wife. Let me assure you, though Gov. Perry and I were on different sides of political questions, I always entertained the highest respect for him as a man of the greatest firmness, and purity in all his views, and now since by your kindness in sending me your noble tribute to his fine ability in your books, I am more fully able to appreciate the nobility and purity of his nature, of his lofty and unselfish patriotism, of his sagacity and wisdom, and more than all, of the tenderness of his heart, of his kindness and affection for his friends, for his deep love and enduring affection for his wife and children, of his truth and sincerity in all things. These are the attributes that mark and distinguish the great and good man. I may be permitted to assure you the more I read the works of Gov. Perry, the more I esteem and appreciate him. The speeches, orations, addresses, with the sketches of our distinguished men, afford me with the "Letters" great delight. You have yourself in the preparation and publi-

cation of these books exhibited a wonderful degree of industry and perseverance. You have established the fame and fixed the reputation for all time of a truly noble man, and one endeared to you forever. You may say with the Roman poet, "I have erected a monument more durable than brass." I trust this will prove a satisfactory reward for all your labor. What you have already accomplished will secure for him a permanent fame in the history of his country. Your sketch of your branch of the Hayne family gave me much satisfaction, as I desired to know something of your mother's and General Hayne's immediate ancestors. Your mother was ever kind to me in New Haven, and I always admired Robert Y. Hayne extremely.

The book First Series "Reminiscences of Public Men," was safely received in due time, for which I beg to return my best thanks. I appreciate your letters, and the pleasing possession of the books you have been so good as to endow me with. I cherish them and read them with great satisfaction. I am sure you give me credit for political honesty, though we have differed in our views to a great degree. I have been reading the sketch of the life of your uncle, "General Robert Y. Hayne." He was one I greatly admired. I sincerely think in the great controversy between Webster and himself, in the political argument, he got the better of Webster. The point at issue was, How the Constitution of the United States was established. Hayne contended it was by the several sovereign States in their sovereign capacity (which was absolutely true) verified by the whole history of its adoption. Webster contended it was framed and adopted by the whole people of the United States as one people. Webster afterwards recanted, and in a speech delivered at Capon Springs, in Virginia, he said it was a compact, and a compact broken on one side is broken on all sides, and this opinion he reiterated in a speech at Boston, which gave such offence to the Bostonians that they refused to hear him at Faneuil Hall. Webster's speech in the Senate was a powerful one, but on the main point he afterwards was obliged to change and come around to the views of General Hayne. With my highest regards and respect, I remain

Yours most truly,

ANDREW W. BURNET, SR.

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 25th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—The two volumes which you kindly sent me some months since, were received while I was undergoing my penance of the grip. I hope that I acknowledged their receipt. If I did not, attribute my neglect to that cause, for the disease attacked my brain, and made me oblivious of most things for several weeks afterwards.

I intended writing more fully after a careful perusal of the volumes. Having just finished this pleasant task, I can thank you more sincerely for the gift. They have brought to mind so many persons and scenes that had passed away, and made them again stand before me, that I have enjoyed exceedingly the sketches of so many familiar forms.

They have also made me appreciate more highly the character of your husband. I always recognised his manly independence and his strong individuality. But I see more clearly how firmly he followed his convictions against so strong a current of popular opinion.

His honesty of purpose always impressed me, and these volumes have strengthened my youthful impressions. His character is a rich legacy to his sons.

I hope that time deals with you as kindly as when I saw you last, and I pray that God's blessing may be with you and yours in time and in eternity.

Very truly and affectionately yours,

C. C. PINCKNEY.

AIKEN, S. C., July 9, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I have read with much interest the letters of Gov. Perry, and also the sketches contained in the books you kindly sent to me. The public acts and services of Gov. Perry is a part of the history of our State. These are familiar to all who have any knowledge of South Carolina politics since the days of Nullification, and the critical times which led to secession and the gloomy period of reconstruction. The wisdom and sound statesmanship of the Governor upon all of these great issues have been fully vindicated by the *logic of events*. He always had the respect of the people of the State even when he was the

foremost and was almost alone in advocating principles of government then unpopular in his own State, but which time has vindicated as the *wisest policy that could have been pursued*. And at his death he justly enjoyed the reputation of having been the *most fearless* and at the same time the *soundest statesman South Carolina has ever produced*. There are others who from being in office occupied more prominence, but *no one* has left a name that is *equal* to his reputation as the *embodiment* of a *wise statesman* and *true patriot*.

This much the public knew from Gov. Perry's services to the State; but in publishing his private letters you have given an insight into his personal life which can only add profound admiration to the high regard that was already had for this wise and truly great man. The private life of a man, which exposes his natural feelings and impulses, gives the best test of judging of a pure and good heart, and the letters you have published do honor to the Governor, for they illustrate his true and noble heart in all the details of life.

You, my dear madam, present to a striking degree an example of a loving, true and devoted wife; but your husband was worthy of such a companion, and his memory fully deserves the tender devotion you have shown. The extracts from the journal and the letters give proof of a pure life that is fit to be emulated not only by Gov. Perry's descendants, but by all who honor a noble character. I appreciate very highly the books, and both Mrs. Croft and myself read them with much pleasure.

Do present my regards to the members of your household, and believe me, dear madam, with great esteem,

Sincerely your friend,

GEORGE W. CROFT.

THE NEWS AND COURIER, CHARLESTON, S. C.,

July 14, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Please pardon my long delay in acknowledging the receipt of the first and second series of the "Letters" of your greatly revered husband. I thank you very much for your kind thought of me and highly

prize the gift. South Carolina has never had a more devoted son than Benjamin Franklin Perry. I would that he were alive to-day to raise his voice in defence of his State, and to encourage by his wise counsel those of us who are attempting to be of some service to our country. But though dead he yet speaketh; and you are building the best monument to his memory in preserving the letters and speeches which he wrote and uttered during his useful and honorable life.

My friend, Mr. G. Herbert Sass, a man of fine literary taste and a great admirer of your husband, has begged me to ask whether it is possible for him to obtain copies of the Letters you have published.

Again thanking you for remembering me, I am

Very sincerely yours,

J. C. HEMPHILL.

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 21st, 1890.

My dear Madam—Allow me to thank you most heartily for the five volumes containing the Sketches, Reminiscences and Letters of your illustrious husband which I received by express a few days ago. The volumes have for me a very special value, for though I knew Governor Perry only slightly, I have always had the greatest admiration for his character and his ability. Personal memoirs have always possessed a great interest for me, and these sketches of the public men of the State from the hand of a master in the art of portraiture, are of especial value just now when we have indeed fallen upon “evil days and upon evil tongues”—when the State is daily traduced, her traditions scorned, and the memory of all her great leaders besmirched in the foulest manner to further the personal ends of selfish demagogues. The value of the materials for history which these volumes afford cannot, therefore, be overestimated, and we owe a debt of gratitude to you for the care with which you have preserved and reproduced these records.

With renewed thanks for your kindness, I remain

Most truly and respectfully yours,

G. HERBERT SASS.

CARTERSVILLE, GA., Sept. 3, 1890.

Dear Madam—Absence from home has prevented my thanking you for the Memorial volume and Reminiscences of Gov. B. F. Perry, of South Carolina, sent me by express last month. Since my return I have delayed my acknowledgments in order that I might read, and reread, his beautiful letters. We all admired him in his public life as patriot and statesman—but these letters reveal his inner life, exhibiting that tender love that none but the noble possess as lover, husband and father, which has elevated him more than ever in my already exalted opinion of him. It is the home life in which we exhibit our true nature. How tender and loveable must have been his.

Again allow me to thank you for these books which will always be highly prized by me, and will be given our sons for their example and emulation.

Respectfully,

JOHN J. CALHOUN.

11 QUINCY ST., CAMBRIDGE, MASS., June 7, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Your kind letter, with the volumes of your husband's correspondence, reached me in due season and order. Accept my hearty thanks. I have already seen enough in these volumes to assure me that their entire contents will be full of interest, as at once making me better acquainted with a character which I have already learned to honor and love, and as giving me a more intimate view of life and society in the State which has to my mind always been chief in its claims on regard of the Southern group of States, on historical grounds, and for the citizens, native and adopted, who have made it illustrious.

With sincerest regards to your daughter and granddaughter, believe me

Very truly yours,

ANDREW P. PEABODY.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 11, 1890.

Dear Madam—I am again made the recipient of your assurances of good will and consideration. I am very grateful to you for copies of the volumes of your husband's letters addressed to you at that epoch of your married life when Love was no "inhabitant of earth," but an "unseen seraph" in which he continued to believe until the shadow of time rested upon his grave.

Surely, dear madam, he had just cause to hold your love and devotion as the most precious leaves in the wreath of life's victories which crowned him in his greatness, for I read in these pages, so sweetly consecrated to the portraying of his inner life, the richness and the depth and the unalterableness of a devotion whose allegiance even death has but made more prominent.

I have read all of the letters in the two volumes. They gave me much pleasure in the perusal. Many of the names mentioned in those letters belonged to men who in after years were known to me—men who were then on the threshold of useful, honorable careers, but with whom I came in contact when they were "full of years," and when they had been crowned with honors which came to them through striving after "better things." In reading of such men as Mr. Pettigru and Gen. Robert Y. Hayne—neither of whom did I ever see—one is inclined to regret that these letters do not portray them in social intercourse. Of course as you knew both of them and these letters were written to you, this would have been an act of supererogation, which under the circumstances of their publication, could have had no consideration in the mind of Governor Perry.

With best wishes for your continued good health, I remain, dear Mrs. Perry,

Respectfully and sincerely,

ANDREW CRAWFORD.

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 12, 1890.

My dear Friend—In acknowledging the receipt of the volumes containing the letters of Governor Perry to you, I venture to say, that in the wide circle of his friends and

admirers, there is no one living to whom the gift of the books calls for warmer thanks than are due you from me. The letters recall reminiscences of events, and of persons now passed away, the early associates of the author and myself. But I prize the volumes not alone because they renew to me pleasing recollections. They afford the highest evidence of the noble spirit and true manliness that characterizes the *gentleman*.

The letters of Gov. Perry are models of their kind, and add a beautiful and unfading wreath to the more massive structure of his reputation as a patriot, and author of his valuable biographical reminiscences, and able speeches and addresses. The best evidence that you have done well in publishing them is the fact, that they reveal him in a new light to many persons who only knew him, or heard of him, as a public man. My wife, and daughter (now with me) say their appreciation of the character of Gov. Perry is greatly enhanced by reading the letters. They did not know before how worthy he was in all the private and domestic virtues so often wanting in public men. His purity as a man, in this respect, may be placed along side of that which was one of the distinguishing characteristics of John C. Calhoun, which Daniel Webster alluded to in his brief and beautifully eloquent eulogy on that great man.

There is another thing shown by the letters—the great magnanimity of Gov. Perry, and his kindness of feelings towards men who differed from him in politics. In the privacy and confidence of his letters to you is found no word of detraction in respect to gentlemen who were often opposed to him politically, and some even *bitterly*. It is true, however, that his personal friendships were seldom broken much by political differences, and if ever, the breach was usually soon mended, and for many years preceding his death there could not be found amongst Carolina gentlemen a man of any party who withheld from him the tribute of honor and commendation he justly merited.

Again I thank you, and subscribe myself as ever your friend,

GEORGE F. TOWNES.

WAVERLY, NEAR WHITE POST, VIRGINIA,

April 26th, 1890.

My dear Madam—The receipt of the "Letters of Gov. Perry to his Wife," places me under renewed obligations, and could you but know the sincere pleasure which these volumes have afforded every member of my family, and how highly prized they are, it would be some gratification to you to know that you have conferred this pleasure upon total strangers. The name of your husband has for years been as a household word to me. It was natural that such should be the case. *He*, one of the most prominent and talented men in our *South land*, to be a decided *Union man*, was to me, an humble anti-secessionist, as sweet fragrance. Oh! my God! why could not our people have listened to reason and to the teachings of such men as your dear husband.

The letters of Gov. Perry to yourself are inimitable. The most thorough, genuine conjugal letters I have ever read. No wonder, my dear madam, you revere the memory of such a man. He was worthy of your love and adoration, and he had it.

If you will pardon me, I will say that the publication of private correspondence, *ordinarily*, might be considered as questionable taste; but in *this* instance, the case is altogether different, for independent of the inimitable and charming style of the letters, they go to show what a tender heart, loving and affectionate disposition was possessed by your *grand* husband, aside from sterling principles and adherence to what he deemed right, under any and all circumstances. My library is a limited one, it is true, but I can assure you that there are no books which it contains that are as highly valued as these same volumes pertaining to the life and history of Gov. Perry. *I want every line ever written, every word ever published about Gov. Perry.*

What a life your married life must have been! A constant sunshine of happiness, or more properly speaking, a ceaseless refulgence of the "Honeymoon." It is no wonder that your life is *now continually in the past*. And there can be nothing more beautiful on earth than your devotion to the memory of your noble husband.

The more I contemplate the history of Gov. Perry, his private and public life, the prouder should we be of *human nature*, and the more satisfied I am that if there ever was a *special* compliment to the work of our Maker, Governor Perry was one!

If you *all* could know the great pleasure which the reading of these books has caused *my neighbors*, my family and myself, it would be, I know, a gratification to you. I value them most highly, and absolutely money could not buy a single copy.

My dear Mrs. Perry, for my wife, my daughters and myself, allow me again to thank you most sincerely for your kind consideration. I repeat that it has been long years since I have derived the *same* pleasure from any books that I have from the volumes you have compiled. I know so well what an eminent labor of love it has been to you. May God bless you. May He bless every true and genuine wife and mother as you have been.

With the love of every member of my family to yourself and household, I remain

Sincerely your friend, WILLIAM C. KENNERLY.

CAMDEN, S. C., July 14th, 1890.

My Dear Madam—I have the honor and pleasure to acknowledge for myself and Mrs. Boykin the token of kind remembrance in the shape of two beautiful volumes of letters of your noble husband.

You have a right, my dear madam, to be proud of those letters. They not only show absolute devotion and happiness through a long married life, but they also show the simple grandeur of your husband's character. I fear but few if any of our public men have left such an enviable domestic record behind them. If any of us who have been granted the privilege of perusing those letters are led to emulate the high standard of domestic virtue therein displayed, then I am sure you will be more than repaid for having published them.

My mother and wife join me in kind regards to yourself and household.

Very sincerely yours, E. MILLER BOYKIN. *

CHARLESTON, S. C., 16th Sept., 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I owe you an apology for not having before this thanked you for the two last volumes relating to your distinguished husband, Governor Perry. But I have been very unwell, and unable to write as I should have wished.

If I had been asked if I had ever known Gov. Perry, I would at once have said, Yes. But if I had been again asked when—and where—and how—I would have been at a loss for an answer. For as far as his public life is concerned I do not know the day when his name was not familiar to me. And as far as his private life is concerned, the fact that two of your uncles had married two of my aunts made his name almost a household name among us all.

These considerations have made his life and letters of peculiar value to me. Again thanking you for them, I am

Yours, very respectfully and truly,

W. ALSTON PRINGLE.

CHARLESTON, S. C., June 30, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—You do not know how much I have enjoyed reading Gov. Perry's letters to his little sweetheart "Lizzie McCall," and then to his "true and faithful WIFE." The book came the week of my daughter's marriage to Mr. Carrington. Her departure for New York, and Mrs. W.'s departure with her grand-children and daughter-in-law, Mrs. G. W. W., Jr., for Nacoochee, Ga., quite upset me, and threw my household into confusion. It was only a few days since that I was able to take up the letters of my old friend, written when you were a "sweet girl of seventeen," regarded as "beautiful in any assembly of ladies."

I was not certain before that you were the neice of the great Robert Y. Hayne. I remember now when I attended a Methodist Conference in Greenville at the beginning of the war that you alluded to the relationship.

Now, my dear Mrs. Perry, why did you not make the romance complete by publishing those sweet letters of yours to the talented young lawyer? I am sure that we should all have enjoyed your letters to him.

How is it that you do not come to Charleston, your native city? I am sure you would find a most hearty welcome here. I sent you for your son, Dr. Hext M. Perry, "Letters to Young Men." I wish I had a copy to send him of my "Travels in the Old and New World." I sent Gov. Perry a copy, which I presume you have.

Again thanking you, my dear Mrs. Perry, for the happiness you have given me on this and former occasions, I remain,

Ever your old friend,

GEORGE W. WILLIAMS.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., August 11, 1890.

My dear Madam—I am very much gratified by the receipt of the two books, "Sketches" and "Reminiscences," by Gov. Perry. I shall always count them among my most valued possessions, to me commemorative alike of your good will, and the interesting events of a thrilling history. When I read Gov. Perry's writings I feel that his words are inspired by the spirit as well as the letter of *truth*, for when I consider his life, I find him strong and clear in contest, brave and self-poised under defeat, and self controlled and generous when successful. Such a man is eminently fitted to stamp himself and his recollections upon the record of history, for he is a suggestive and valuable part of history. As my little son grows up I should like him to consider an inspiring model of strong and noble manhood, a character showing a well balanced brain, high moral courage, clear intellect, sound judgment and chivalrous bearing under circumstances calculated to excite the venom of resentment and the usual folly of hasty expressions. I think the life of Gov. Perry portrays such a character. The late war was fruitful of strong and influential characters. None stood in bolder outline or nobler relief than the thoughtful and independent, sagacious and prudent statesman whose life was honest conviction and disinterested patriotism personified.

The man of thought has ceased to speak, but his historical legacies are instinct with life and will never lose their meaning. The great and arduous achievement of mind is to see things as they actually are, and not as they are

colored by our prejudices on the one hand or our partialities on the other. Our author's achievement in this direction is a monument to sound thought and corresponding action. Accept my best wishes for your personal welfare.

Very truly, your friend,

HENRY PAGE BURRUSS.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 27th, 1890.

My dear Madam—On my return home last evening I found a genuine and most agreeable surprise awaiting me two volumes of letters fresh in thought, simple in style, natural in tone and instinctive with the noble love of a manly heart, speaking the unhidden feelings of the true wedded spirit. I had read shortly before with keen interest the "Reminiscences" and "Sketches" of Gov. Perry. They are a masterly stroke on the canvass of real history because they crystallize in simple but beautiful touches the real life and character of people. These letters now come with an especial point to complete the delineation of a character whose public side the world had well read and warmly approved. Their appropriate mission is to indicate and emphasize the natural and invariable union of public with private virtue, of love and truth in the home circle, with purity and integrity in the general councils, of loyalty to family with fidelity to country. I have several times asked myself the question, what made Governor Perry a good and great man, equal to any and all emergencies? for it is the reserve power to meet all emergencies as they arise that makes a man truly great. It must be that his intellect was clear to discern, his judgment sound to discriminate, his heart honest and responsive to the right and his soul brave enough to pursue at any cost the path of wisdom and of truth. All the expressions of a strong nature so well poised, public and private, are of lasting interest and value to the countrymen of a man whose broad grasp reconciled general order and prosperity with the preservation of individual rights and local autonomy. His career is the history of a critical and thrilling epoch, whose meaning can only be understood by a thoughtful contemplation of the impersonations, noble

and ignoble of the times. You have done your country and your people an invaluable service in throwing a full stream of light upon the features of the noble character that won and deserved your constant love and deathless memory. The secret of life's success is to do and love the true and noble. The characters of history are the anchors and pilots of thinking and enduring humanity.

Permit me, my dear madam, to thank you most sincerely for your kindness and consideration in presenting me these interesting books, so fraught with meaning to the appreciative heart and mind. May your life be long spared to enjoy the fruits of a work well planned and faithfully executed.

Most sincerely and respectfully yours,

HENRY PAGE BURRUSS.

WATERTOWN, MASS., August 10, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—A much longer time than I expected has elapsed since my acknowledgment of the volumes of letters from your husband to yourself. When I wrote the letter July 5th, I had only had time to glance at the contents, and was sorry afterwards that I wrote any comment, as upon reading "The Letters" carefully my remarks seemed to have been superficial.

They were superficial, but they were true. I was impressed with his (Gov. Perry's) thoughtfulness for you, and for home concerns, when he was so busy that he could barely find time to write and tell you so, but I found in reading on, that the quotation which closes the first series and opens the second series,

"She was his life ;

The ocean to the river of his thoughts—

Which terminated all,"

gives the key to the whole. His public life—his profession—was secondary—in *his mind*—to his home life, and I have a great admiration, my dear Mrs. Perry, for the ruling spirit in that home who kept it always where it should hold the first place in his heart, and who helped him to be the man that he was.

The letters are of exceeding interest—fascinating; and one sees all through that a *high toned gentleman* is wri-

ting, and he never changes; the same spirit fills the last letter as the first; there is enthusiasm, love, loyalty, strict integrity, and as I read on I understand more and more the character of the man. I thank you so much for sending the books to me, that I might know him as he was in his home, in his daily life. They supplement finely those you have so kindly sent me previously in regard to his public life, and they form in all a little library of which I am quite proud.

As I have been striving to say, it is the *tone* of the letters which form their great charm, but there are some in particular which interest me. I have in my mind one in which he proves that great minds—great men—have come from a country and not a city life; and another in which he refers to the American love of change thinking that this restless spirit destroys the strong love of country that every one should possess. Nothing, it seems to me, could be truer than this, but I think your husband must have seen as the years went on—every year shows more and more—the restlessness of the American people. He carries out this same idea in the same letter in other lines of thought in a way that is particularly interesting.

There are many other things of which I could speak, but my letter would be too long.

But there is one more thing of which I must speak, which makes the book more valuable historically; it is that in 1843 people had a season of suffering from “la grippe” just as we have had during the past winter. This is something quite new to me. I do not remember to have seen the name before last winter.

I do not think that in my last letter I spoke to you as fully as I wished of the beauty of the books—the binding, type and photographs are all so good. The different views of “Sans Souci” are each so delightful, and pictures so clear that it is a pleasure to look at them. It seems almost wonderful to get so fine an interior as you have with your portrait and that of your husband so distinct in it. There is more that I could say, but I will have that pleasure at some future time. With love to Mrs. Beattie, yourself and Emily.

Yours sincerely,

MARY E. DOWSE.

AUBURN, ALA., May 29th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Thank you for the charming book received yesterday. My first sensation was one of flattered vanity in receiving such a kind testimonial of your esteem and remembrance, but before the first letter was finished this emotion gave place to a feeling of genuine delight in having in my possession a book so replete with such warm sentiments of the heart expressed by a gifted mind. It reads like a novel, and while reading it I could not have divested myself of the idea that it was fiction if I had not have known “the heroine,” and have known, too, that she was capable of inspiring from everybody the same love and admiration which her beauty and sweetness excited in the writer’s heart years ago. T’was not my intention to indulge in personal compliments, for I know praise of *him* is sweeter far than the incense of a world of worshippers at your shrine would be. A woman wants nothing more than to have been the wife of such a great, grand man. He left many lasting testimonials of his judiciary talents, statesmanship and ability, but to my mind these proofs of his mental powers redound with less honor to his memory than the purity and sweetness of his *private* life. That it was blameless, without spot or blemish, can be read “between the lines” in his letters to you. Nothing else could so eloquently attest it. The thought of having them published is worthy of you—it was a sweet inspiration, and if the angels can know of such things *he* will thank you when your separation is over.

Give my best love to every member of the family, especially your daughters. Thanking you most sincerely for the “Book of Letters” which I am sure no one to whom you have given them will read with more pleasuse than I have done, I am with best wishes and sincerest friendship.

MINNIE ARMSTRONG.

305 WEST 28TH ST., NEW YORK, Sept. 16, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Doubtless you are thinking me very unappreciative in not writing long since to thank you for the book so daintily gotten up and so pleasing to read, of your husband’s correspondence with you. I have had

quite a troublesome time this summer and with sickness and nursing have had both hands and heart full.

Let me thank you very warmly for your great kindness in sending me the copy. I feel greatly complimented and although tardy in acknowledging it do appreciate it more than I can express. Besides the pleasure I feel in reading the records of a pure and useful life, it is refreshing in this age of careless selfishness to find one who although bearing the burden as well as the honors of a public life, could turn aside with such loving devotion and lay them all, as it were, at the feet of his *wife* and children. Your lot has been a happy one, though separated from so much loving companionship, to have enjoyed it so many years, and to be able to look back with so much pride to the unswerving honor and honesty of purpose that was so marked in the entire life of your devoted husband. Truly he has left a noble heritage to his family, and it is with justice they are so proud of him. I hope my dear young friend, Perry Beattie, will be just as good, and that his name will reflect the talent and honesty of him from whom it has descended. With many loving thanks believe me

Very truly yours,

R. NEESON.

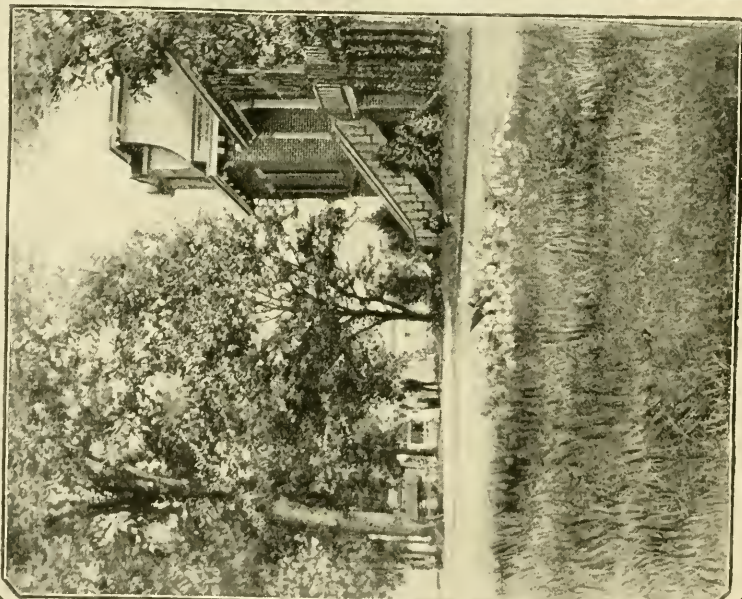
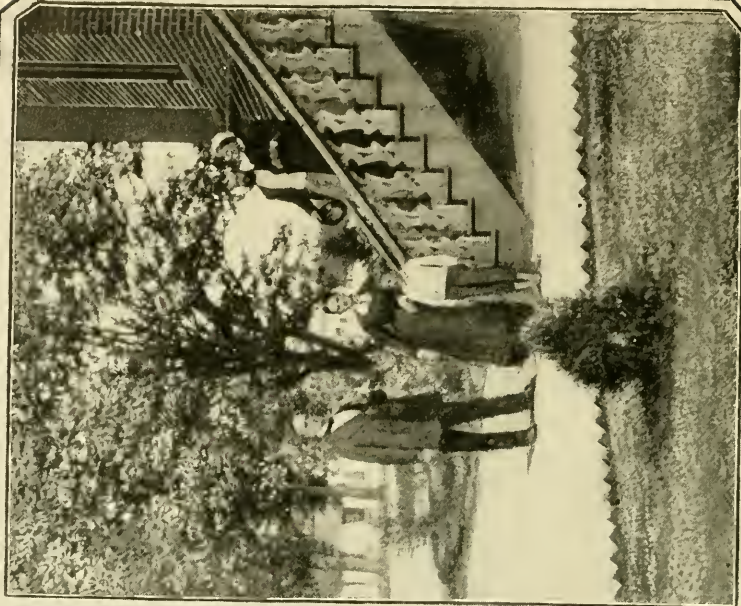
WAKE FOREST COLLEGE, WAKE FOREST, N. C.,

September 10th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I have been so busy since our arrival that I have, only to-day, opened your valuable gift, "Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife. First Series."

I congratulate through you my childhood's friend, "Hext," upon preserving in such beautiful style these prized letters of his father. As far as I have read they are charming indeed, and I will take peculiar pleasure in their perusal. I always think of Gov. Perry as he was at the time of Fanny's and my marriage, in the glory of his mature manhood, courtly in his bearing toward all—but kind, oh so kind, in his intercourse with the young and inexperienced. His memory is indeed a precious legacy to

SANS-SOUCI.



his children. May they ever be stimulated by it to high deeds and noble actions.

We arrived safely in this our new home, but will not begin house-keeping immediately. I go this week to pay my mother quite a long visit.

With tender love to my dear Fanny, I remain with highest esteem,

Your friend,

LOUISE S. LANNEAU.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Sept. 4th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I feel greatly your debtor after having enjoyed the beautiful books which portray your husband's life as a limpid stream. I delight to recognize and do homage to genuine merit. What grand qualities of head and heart are revealed in these volumes! What constancy and tenderness! Even at a distance his eyes were turned toward the beacon-light of home.

I think I am most impressed by his simplicity—that rare virtue which is confined to great minds; for many people make an uncomfortable exhibition of themselves on stilts. It is “like to like” when he says, “I love purity and sincerity, and will make those only my friends who possess these qualities.”

I think one of his finest paragraphs is on page 115 of the second series of Letters:

“*My dear wife*: Our happiness in this life is very much in our own hands. If we strive in the right way to be happy, we will be. We must exercise Christian philosophy and bear up with the ills of this life, look to the comforts we have, and not pine for those we cannot get. My rule through life has been to make the most of my situation and look on the bright side of the picture; never worry myself about that which cannot be altered or has passed by; do my duty to the best of my ability and care little as to consequences, and I flatter myself that I have been blessed through life; blessed with prosperity, blessed with the comforts of life, and the good opinion of my acquaintances; blessed with a good wife and pretty children, to

whom I look for all my future happiness, and to promote whose happiness I live and am happy."

How sensible and sunshiny! What an atmosphere of peace and contentment must have surrounded such a man! It seems that while you are thus occupied in preserving the sacred past, that you would feel the wall of partition almost annihilated.

With respect and esteem,

MILDRED E. NOWELL.

146 N. SUMMER ST., NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 1, 1890.

Dear Madam—I am requested by the Hon. Mrs. James K. Polk to acknowledge the receipt from the Rev. Dr. Wm. H. Whitsitt, a few weeks ago, of two volumes, the first and second series, of "Letters of Gov. Benjamin Franklin Perry to his Wife." She would be glad to do so herself, and with her own pen to assure you of the pleasure your kind consideration has given her, and of the grateful appreciation with which these valuable books are received, but she is prevented by the feebleness of advanced age. She is eighty-seven years old, having lived seventeen years longer than the limit allotted in Scripture—three-score and ten. By reason of the blessing of God, her age has become four-score and seven, and she is wonderfully vigorous in mind and body for one bearing the weight of so many seasons with their successive accumulations of infirmity. She looks much younger and converses with her old-time brightness and vivacity. With her keen insight into character and circumstances, she still discerns the signs of the times, and understands them better than many younger than she, who being in active life have better opportunities for judging. But reading and writing require much effort, and are more of a burden than the entertainment and pleasure they were in former days. I gladly write at her bidding, and am happy to communicate to you her acknowledgments and thanks. In a situation similar to yours, having a distinguished and honored husband gone before her to Heaven, whose illustrious memory envelopes her like a bright cloud, she is peculiarly

fitted to appreciate your devotion in publishing these two volumes of deeply interesting letters.

Please accept renewed assurances of her thanks.

Very truly yours, MRS. ANSON NELSON.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 8th, 1890.

Dear Madam—The noble and highly deserving "Tribute" to "Benjamin Franklin Perry, ex-Governor of South Carolina," was duly received and greatly appreciated. Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind remembrance of me, and for the compliment you have paid an entire stranger in assuming that the "Tribute" would be read with a warm appreciation and true cordial sympathy.

It was my privilege to meet your lamented and honored husband but once, when we participated together in the commencement exercises of the Reidville Academy. I shall never forget how deeply impressed I was, while listening to his literary address, with the spirit of loyalty to truth, devotion to principle, and exalted patriotism, which pervaded his strong and eloquent utterances, and the feeling of sadness, as I reflected that this noble man belonged to that brilliant constellation of heroes, statesmen and patriots that were rapidly fading from our Southern sky. Their places in the vacant firmament may never be filled with the same pure and steady light, but they may continue to shine in the pages of history and biography, and you have, in the valuable memorials of your distinguished husband, done a lasting service to the State he so much loved even unto suffering and death, while you have gratified the loving impulses of your bereaved heart in rearing a monument to his memory, more beautiful than marble, and more imperishable than brass.

I had just acknowledged the "Tribute" received by mail, when the "Reminiscences of Public Men, with Speeches and Addresses," and the "Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen," came by express, which place me under renewed obligations to you for your thoughtful kindness, and I beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgments. I expect to derive great pleasure and profit from the perusal and study of the orations, lectures and

addresses, &c., but more especially from the memorial of the great statesman, the eloquent orator, the learned lecturer, and the noble man himself. I shall also highly value the excellent and faithful likenesses of Gov. Perry. I shall feel honored in possessing these three volumes, and that I have made a valuable acquisition to my library. I am with great respect and esteem, most truly yours,

GILBERT R. BRACKETT.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 14th, 1890.

My dear Madam—The two volumes of your husband's "Letters" was duly received. Please accept my sincere thanks for them. I have always regarded letters, which are the spontaneous utterances of the heart, with no thought of their being made public, as the truest expression of character, and as a mirror of the inner life of your lamented husband, I shall greatly value these letters. One may be a great statesman, a great orator, a great scholar, without being great as a man, with a great heart throbbing with human sympathy, rich in those domestic virtues that fill the home with sunshine and happiness, and create a genial and kindly atmosphere. So many of our great men, who command admiration and esteem in public life, are disagreeable and irritable in their homes, that it is refreshing to read the life of a great man who was good as he was great—a loving husband, a kind father, a sincere and affectionate friend. But perhaps justice would require me to say that your dear husband was more fortunate than most men in possessing a wife, whose warm, sympathetic heart did much to kindle and fan the flame of conjugal love. No one can read the "Letters" without feeling how great has been your loss, how much has gone out of your home and your life, and without feeling a profound sympathy for you in your great bereavement.

You need not fear of wearying me. I could bear an inundation of such good books. My heart will always make room for the kindness, and my library for the volumes, which contain the "life-blood of master spirits," and which are throbbing with the heart-beats of human sympathy and brotherly love. But I must beg you not to deprive

any member of your family, or any personal friend of your lamented husband, of these literary treasures to gratify a stranger, whom you have been pleased to honor by placing him on your list of "dear friends." I hope I may prove worthy of your friendship, and enjoy the pleasure of meeting you in your beautiful home, before we meet in the heavenly abode of our sainted dead.

I shall avail myself of my first leisure moment to visit the Charleston Library and examine the volume of "Reminiscences" to which you refer. As your supply of books is rapidly diminishing, I would beg a little time to select the names of two persons who I shall be sure will appreciate them.

Last Sabbath the whole Protestant Church was studying the Master's ideal of greatness. "I am among you as one that *serveth*," and He laid aside the glory of Heaven to *serve* those whom he came to save. Surely you will not find it in your heart to complain that your noble husband copied this divine ideal, and sacrificed the "honors" of this world that he might truly serve his fellow-men, by promoting the cause of truth and righteousness; and preferred a cross to a crown—persecution, obloquy and suffering—to *serve* his State and country. To such the Master "appoints a kingdom," and declares they shall "sit upon thrones." These *kingly* souls are *enthroned* in the hearts of men, and "rule us from their urns." They wear an immortal crown, receive immortal honor, and wield an immortal power. May we have grace given us to imitate their example of Christian service, and share their eternal reward. With your permission, I will subscribe myself

Your sincere friend,

GILBERT R. BRACKETT.

P. S.—Please accept the accompanying sermon as a memento of this pleasant correspondence.

G. R. B.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHARLESTON, S. C.,

November 1st, 1890.

My dear Madam—I feel honored by your kind consideration in sending me the volumes of Biography, Addresses and other Memorial of your distinguished husband. They

are a valuable addition to my library and will serve to keep alive the recollections of a great man, and as a legacy to my sons to mark the wisdom and emulate the virtues of their eminent countryman.

My deceased father had the highest admiration for Gov. Perry. They were closely associated as Union men during the Nullification troubles, and since then while devoted to the true interests of the State they mutually sympathized in an ardent love for our common country.

Permit me, dear madam, to say that South Carolina has never produced a purer statesman, or more brave and virtuous a citizen, than your honored husband. But few men possessed the courage he displayed in resisting the political dogmas and policy of our unfortunate State, now again agitated to its very centre by the struggle for office of reckless demagogues—would he were with us now, or could rule these disquiet spirits from his urn.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your valued present, and believe me with the highest regard,

Very respectfully and truly yours,

SAMUEL Y. TUPPER.

FARMINGTON, S. C., Oct. 3d, 1890.

Dear Madam—The “Tribute” and “Reminiscences” of your illustrious husband, for which I am indebted to your esteemed consideration, reached me safely. His high courage, moral and intellectual strength, and the *magnificent physique* which nature provided for them to abide in, combining, as they did, to make up a superb type of manhood, have ever commanded my admiration; and everything written by or of him, that has come within my reach, has been read with interest. Your valued present, in book shape, of his own productions, some of which I have seen before, is specially prized, not only for the valuable information so attractively given of others, but for the light of indubitable truth thrown on the real character of the writer. A naturally strong individuality strengthened and developed, perhaps, by the circumstances of his career, has impressed itself in a marked degree on his writings. They are fragrant with the very essence of a sincere and honest

life and between the lines, all unconsciously, is opened to view a leaf of his real character which is beyond the reach of portrayal by others. The preservation, in permanent form, of the productions of his own pen is, of itself, a tribute to his memory than which none can be more worthy or honor it more; unless it be, my dear madam, the touching devotion which inspired its accomplishment.

Accept my thanks and allow me to assure you of my esteem and respect.

Yours truly,

JOHN BRATTON.

CRAFT'S SCHOOL, CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 4, 1890.

My dear Madam—Permit me to return my sincere thanks for the Sketches, Letters, etc., by your esteemed husband, received on Saturday last. I shall read them with the more pleasure, since they are the product of so independent and advanced a thinker. Governor Perry, like Mr. Petigru and many other level-headed men of his day, had the courage of his convictions, and no one, who has carefully studied his bold and far-reaching statesmanship, as emphasized, especially by the logic of events, can fail to admire the heroism, self-sacrifice and fortitude of the man.

If our State had possessed more men like him, she never would have had the unenviable title of *Prostrate* fastened upon her.

And, when it was all over, how like Micaiah, he must have mourned when he witnessed the ruin of his country and his people! Micaiah warned in vain, *he* never told "smooth things." Oh! that the voice of *our* Micaiah had been heard in *his* day.

With a deep appreciation of the noble work you are doing in the way of tribute to your noble husband, believe me,

Yours most truly,

R. E. SEABROOK.

COLUMBIA, S. C., 6th June, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I received yesterday by express the books containing the letters of your husband to yourself which I had asked Julius Heyward to get for me. I write to express my thanks to you. I had received previously

the various volumes containing Gov. Perry's works, and they have all given me great pleasure and valuable information. The volumes just sent are peculiarly interesting to me on account of the frequent mention of my father (Albert Rhett) who died when I was a child of barely seven years of age. It was a lesson to me to see that the men of those days could differ so widely, and yet have the highest regard for each other. My mother who died five or six years ago, very old, mentioned to me that when a girl she went with her father, John Taylor, on his Governor's tour to Greenville, and there met your husband, who contributed much to the pleasure of her stay there; and that certainly he was one of the most striking in appearance, handsomest and most agreeable men that she had met, and that she never had forgotten the pains he was at to give her the pleasant time she had.

Shortly before her death, she was looking over some old jewelry, and showed me a pin or locket containing some hair with the initials of your brother on it, and told me that my father told her that it contained your brother's hair that was given to him by your mother, in memory of his friendship with him at New Haven (Yale College.) I judge this was between fifty and sixty years ago. I think my father said he was with him during his last illness, perhaps came home with him from New Haven. So you see it is a pleasure for me to remind you that there is some hereditary tie between you and yours and me and mine. We have never met to my knowledge, but we can remember it for all that. I do. I am trying in the general, indeed universal, ruin of our country to take care of my family. Your sons I know well, and the eldest was in the same regiment with me during the war, "Hampton's Legion."

Your long and intensely interesting letter came a few days ago. I am very grateful to you. You said you feared it was too long. Not long enough I think, if you could have said any more on the subject of my father. I have known and heard very little of his life before his marriage to my mother. So you can see why I say "intensely interesting." I have copies of all your books, including the first and second series of "Reminiscences of Public Men," and have read them and find occasion for frequent refer-

ence to them. They are very valuable books for the present and the future, and I hope you will continue and publish the journal and more. A lost cause suffers by time, and such publications tend to make it suffer less. I do not think, however, that they are necessary to vindicate your husband—he needs not that. Even in his lifetime the world, including his political opponents, as all of my people and most of yours were, have long since weighed him and found him *not wanting*. I beg you will let me know when you come to Columbia, and I will call at once to see you, and bring with me all the descendants of your old friend, and that of your mother and brother, Albert Rhett. And believe me now as ever,

Very truly your friend, JOHN TAYLOR RHETT.

LINDEN, ALABAMA, Jan. 9th, 1891.

My dear Madam—I received by mail “Reminiscences, with Speeches and Addresses,” “Sketches,” “Letters to his Wife,” by Gov. Perry, and the “Memorial Tribute.” I thank you for sending them, and I am greatly obliged to John Witherspoon DuBose for requesting you to do so.

I owe you an apology for not sooner acknowledging the kindly gift. But when I tell you I have had a member of my family quite sick for more than a month and that on 7th of December my office was blown away by a cyclone, I am sure you will excuse me.

I am a Carolinian myself by birth and education. I graduated at Columbia in 1857, and have Gov. Perry's name on my diploma. He was one of the Trustees at that time. I knew Gov. Perry just as any college boy then knew the leading members of the Legislature. I remember listening to his great speech on 11th December, 1850, and it gave me great pleasure to read it again after so many years.

The “Sketches” are not only valuable contributions to history, but are delightful reading. To me they are full of names as familiar as household words from my childhood. My mother was a lineal descendant of “Landgrave Smith,” and as the Highlanders claim to be cousins who live north of Scotland, so, I think, my mother claims every body in

the Low-Country of Carolina as a cousin. My father was an intimate friend and life-long correspondent of Warren Davis, whom Gov. Perry mentions so often. My father was somewhat of a musician and used to sing "Johnston's Wife of Louisiana," and tell me stories of his friend "Warren Davis."

I received two days ago your kind letter, with what you call "some loose sheets," and to-day's mail brought me the "Second Series of Gov. Perry's Letters to his Wife," and the "Tribute to Benjamin Franklin Perry." Thank you again for remembering me. Among the "loose sheets" I found a sketch of Judge Withers, with which I was greatly pleased. Judge Withers and my uncle, Dr. John McCaa, married sisters. They lived in adjoining lots in Camden. I spent the summer vacation of my senior year in Camden, and learned to know the Judge as well as any boy could know him. I staid a large part of my time in his office, and was in the habit of writing letters, law papers and political articles for him. I admired him and still think he was a very great man. It gratified me to see so good a judge of men as Gov. Perry had so high an opinion of the Judge, and I am glad that he has left such a charming sketch of him. Then, too, I was glad to read of Gov. Hammond. His son Harry was my room-mate at college, and a week or two at "Silver Bluff" will ever be a green spot in my memory. Warren Davis was my father's friend, and I was delighted to read of him. I might go on, but fear it would worry your patience.

Living in an out of the way town, with New York and the post office for our book-store, you will at once see that your kindly present was a God-send to an old Carolinian. While all are delightful reading, I must confess I think Gov. Perry's letters to you the most interesting. I doubt if any young lady ever received such letters, or any married woman can show a collection that will equal yours. I believe "they will be read one hundred years hence," not only by *his descendants*, but by all lovers of good English and good feelings. It will be a pity if the letters of Mrs. Perry to her husband are not published.

In one of Gov. Perry's letters to you he says: "Dr. La Borde was going to marry a pretty young lady," and

comments on the good luck of *widowers*. Now I had the good luck to marry a *widow*, a Mrs. Young, whose first husband was Judge James A. Young, a brother of Mrs. Coleman and Mr. Henry C. Young, the latter often mentioned in Gov. Perry's letters, and the former you spent your first married year with.

In Gov. Perry's "Sketches" I read of Wm. Smith. The Landgrave Thomas was my mother's grand father. I did not know one of Wm. Laughton Smith's children was living. Please give my kindest regards to my far-off cousin (Mrs. Thomas O. Lowndes.) I am, with much respect,

Very truly yours,

EUGENE M. McCAA.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 28th, 1890.

My dear Friend—Again you have put me under obligations for the two series of letters, for which please accept our best thanks. I spent all day yesterday in looking over them, which I could not have done and for which I could not well spare the time, had I not been much interested. From the original which you sent me a year or two ago, I knew something of them, and had not to learn for the first time the pure affections and big warm heart of the lover, the husband and the father as exhibited in your collection. The devotion of the lover, the solicitude and tender thoughts about wife and children enlist my sympathies; and then there are so many references to persons and things of which I knew something, that awaken a deep interest and carry me back to my early days, recalling many of the great men of the past generation upon whom I looked with respect and reverence, but whose names are now almost forgotten, and alas, it will not be long until I will go the same way.

NOVEMBER 11th, 1890.

* * * The express wagon has left me a handsome copy of the "Sketches, &c.," for which please accept my best thanks. Some of the speeches I have read before, but the book will always be pleasant and profitable reading, and useful as a book of reference about some of our great men whose lives are almost forgotten. I need not tell you how much I appreciate it, nor repeat what I have before

said of the moral and intellectual greatness of Gov. Perry. As to the photograph of Gov. Perry, I have had it framed and placed most conspicuously on the mantel of my study.

I don't know that I ever mentioned to you my first recollection of seeing Gov. Perry. It was in my college days, at an entertainment given by William C. Preston, in Columbia, and I now well remember his personal appearance on that occasion and how impressed I was with his person, his noble and dignified bearing. What changes since then, and what scenes have we witnessed. He has gone at a ripe age, full of years and full of honors.

With all your losses and crosses, you have a melancholy pleasure in dwelling on the virtues of your revered husband and find much to instruct and improve you in his thoughts, so many of which you have given to the world to do good to others, and *to do good* is what we have to live for. May God give us grace "to redeem the time."

Very sincerely your friend,

WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 25th, 1890.

Dear Madam—In acknowledging the receipt of the "Memorial" and the "Sketches of Eminent Men," by the late Governor B. F. Perry, I cannot refrain from adding a feeble line to the monument so richly endowed by others. I knew Governor Perry, and had the honor as a representative from Charleston to serve with him in the General Assembly of this State. The photograph adorning the Sketches bring vividly to my mind the splendid majestic form which seem to have been designed to receive that head upon the face of which appeared as if written by his Maker in legible characters the words, "Behold a firm and just man." There was here a grandeur which calls to mind the Roman expression, "Viv pro ponti tenax."

In these volumes, madam, you must feel the proud consciousness of having placed before Governor Perry's countrymen in a style unique and readable, a large part of the political life of his native State—covering the period of

Nullification—Co-operation—Secession—Disunion—Reconstruction and Reunion.

Thanking you, madam, for the favor conferred and the instruction derived from the perusal of these volumes. I have the honor of subscribing myself, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant, B. J. WHALEY.

BLAGHSTONE, MASS., June 3, 1890.

My dear Cousin—Upon receipt of books I sent postal cards at once that you might know they had reached me safely. Though not as yet strong, am slowly improving in health. I have waited partly that I might feel better able to write and partly because I wanted to read the books before doing so. I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed them! and I do assure you they will be a source of continued pleasure in the future.

Do you remember telling me while you were in Massachusetts that, "Should I ever visit you in South Carolina, you would read to me from your dear husband's letters?" I felt in that promise you had conferred upon me a very great favor, even though I might never avail myself of it, knowing how sacredly a true and loving wife values all such treasures; and now, these letters having been preserved in a fitting and permanent form for those to whose hearts father and mother are both so dear, you most generously present them to your many friends, that they may better understand and appreciate the truly "*grand character*" of one among those men "whose names are more enduring than any monument—the great writers, and the men of great achievement." Most heartily do I thank you for these letters, my dear friend and cousin. The "First Series" having been written during your engagement and early married life, you think they "might be thought too affectionate to give to the public." I do not quite understand whether you mean the general public, or your very large circle of friends; whichever it may be I can see nothing objectionable in them, on the contrary, only that which comes from a true and noble heart; a pure, exalted nature; a truly Christian character.

Now, dear cousin, tell Fanny please, I was so glad to re-

ceive her letter, and hope to write to her before very long. With much love for yourself, Fanny and little Emilie, I am as ever,

Sincerely and affectionately,

CARRIE S. PERRY.

LOUISE HOME, WASHINGTON, D. C., June 21, 1890.

My dear and very kind Friend—I must beg very earnestly, in this letter of thanks, that you will not at all measure my appreciation of kindness by the length of time I have taken to acknowledge it. Miss Caroline Jones and others will bear testimony of my utter absorption and enjoyment of the "Letters." And truly I cannot express how glad I am to have been allowed to know—and in no other way could I have done, so thoroughly—the inner life of such a good, noble, pure man. The simplest details standing out so grandly and stamping him so wonderfully good! Not a word ever written but from a loving, kindest of hearts, and *nothing* of that *selfishness* that often comes with greatness. I do value the book for many reasons as well as being so pleasantly thought of by home-State friends. This gives me a feeling that I cannot describe—but very dear to me in this isolation. Long may you enjoy, with your dear children, these sad, I know, but sweet recollections of your noble husband. And with a heart full of thanks and love to Mrs. Beattie and children, believe me most cordially and friendly, yours,

ELIZA CALHOUN,

COOPER LIMESTONE INSTITUTE, Spartanburg Co., S. C.,

July 28th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—The book you sent me reached me last Thursday. I have already read a number of the letters, and have enjoyed them very much. Gov. Perry's prominence and your youth and attractions would make the courtship, as seen through the letters, pleasing to any one. While his devotion and tenderness after marriage, show that the bright hopes of the lover can be more than realized, and that conjugal bliss is a reality. Accept my thanks for the gift. Give my love to Mrs. Beattie.

Your friend,

PHŒBE FULLER.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 17th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I have only this day received the five pictures. I am truly obliged by your kindness. I am enthused with memories of childhood when my mother wore her hair as your picture does, and when she and all the other ladies looked so modest and refined as does the picture of yourself. I said to my sister, as I opened the package, "Here is a lady, the product of South Carolina civilization, nowhere else known in the wide world." It is, indeed, a strong face, a gentle and good and beautiful face. You ought not have sent it to a poet (?) unless you were prepared to accept the license of his word painting! Some day I will send you my own. Meantime you will contemplate me as a South Carolina gentleman! They are not notably handsome, but they make graceful bows and do no little meannesses in manners as * * * * * often do. My mother's name was Elizabeth Boykin Witherspoon.

I received yesterday your short letter, and the day before the one I valued most because it was longer.

You are greatly mistaken if you imagine there was a line or a word about public men or private affairs written by you which was in the remotest degree objectionable to me, or which in any manner whatever could excite my feelings. I showed your letter to Mr. Burruss, and we talked it over before your last came and remarked upon the inestimably good work you are doing to throw light on history. I enjoyed your letter and remarks upon the men of your time and Gov. Perry's time for the very reason that I could not have received the ideas from any other source. If you will tell me more of all the men you know, good, bad or indifferent, I shall be under additional obligations to you. In every thing you have written to me, you have conferred a lasting favor.

You have a daily privilege which I expect no lady bereft of her husband in the whole State of South Carolina has—you may every day read the daily utterances of him recorded in words of temperance and wisdom. As I told you before, I am acquainted with no character coming nearer to my ideal than Gov. Perry's. He was a model husband, a model father, a sincere patriot and man, like the ancient

test of man, one that no storm could turn from his just resolves. Now it so happened that for my own pastime I have lately read to compare Homer's Iliad and the Psalms of David for a test of poetry. I think David is far ahead—very far. If you will turn to the "Third day" of Psalter of the Prayer Book, the first Psalm there quoted is the XV. It is the most complete definition of a *gentleman* ever written! I have gathered an idea from Gov. Perry's letters to you which associates his name with that definition more completely than any man I ever knew.

In the first series of "Reminiscences of Public Men," you were so kind as to send me, I struck a bonanza of historical facts in it most grateful as well as profitable.

I hope your hard work correcting the errors in the "Letters" is over, and congratulate your remarkable energy and zeal in pursuing it. You have surely "erected a monument more lasting than brass" to your high-minded husband, when you give to posterity the thoughts which expose his real character.

Please let me have a letter whenever you can about any thing or any body. I am greatly interested in your plans to publish more letters of a period in which I am better informed than the earlier ones, inasmuch as I have read more of men and events from 1850 on this way. I remain with greatest respect and esteem, sincerely your friend,

JOHN WITHERSPOON DuBOSE.

SUMTER, S. C., Jan. 28th, 1891.

My dear Mrs. Perry—It was a pleasant and gratifying surprise to me when I opened an express package a few days since, to see that it contained memorials from a loving wife and son of one whose life was an honor to his State and a proud heritage to his children, besides a high example to the youth of his country. I shall read the volumes with interest and profit, I am sure, and you have laid us under obligations in having thus preserved and published the utterances of one who did nothing to be ashamed of, and left us nothing to regret except the fact that he has gone away. I never knew Gov. Perry personally except as a very young man knows one well advanced

in years, but I knew of his character, his services, and his attainments, and had for him both respect and admiration, which have strengthened as I have come to know him more intimately through your publications, which I saw and read at father's house in Camden.

I am very much obliged to you, my dear madam, for remembering me in this way, and while thanking you, allow me to wish for you the blessing of God now and evermore. I am, my dear madam, very respectfully and truly yours,
JOHN KERSHAW.

BAP. THEO. SEMINARY, 223 EAST BRECKINRIDGE,
LOUISVILLE, KY., Aug. 7, 1890.

Honored Madam—I wish to acknowledge the favor that you did me in sending through Rev. Henry Ferguson a copy of each of your volumes that have been issued in connection with the life and services of your noble husband. I have read them with a more than usual degree of interest, and have received much enjoyment and profit from them. I commend your beautiful devotion to his memory, and rejoice in the practical results which it has produced. Here are materials of history that will be more and more appreciated as time advances. It is a happy thought that has led you in this way to preserve them from destruction.

With renewed thanks, yours very truly,

WILLIAM H. WHITSITT.

P. S.—I have forwarded the volumes intended for Mrs. Ex-President Polk, together with a letter of explanation.

114 W. STATE ST., TRENTON, N. J., April 11, 1890.

My dear Friend—Your book of "Letters" from Gov. Perry to yourself, came yesterday, and I appreciate very much the kindly consideration which led you to favor me with them. I have already read many of the letters with *real pleasure*.

Autobiography has a strange infatuation for me, and all Southern people must now value especially every thing that helps to portray the days of "Auld Lang Syne."

It will be no easy matter for our children, and still less for our grand-children, to appreciate the life led by our forefathers of anti-bellum days, and all such letters as these, help to present in the most natural and vivid way the social and political status of by-gone days. The letters and addresses on the reconstruction period in South Carolina are particularly interesting for the light thrown upon the true condition of affairs in the South during that most trying time. As bearing on the same subject I have recently read with much interest, "The Southern Planter," by Mrs. Smedes.

We are pleasantly situated in our new home, and the people have shown us the utmost cordiality and consideration in every way. Our Easter offering was \$1,055. I had asked for \$900. We appreciate the unselfish interest shown in our behalf here in Trenton. We have a pleasant home and the work of the church is particularly encouraging. I trust that your health continues good. May the years to come bring you much of joy and peace.

Sincerely, and with kind regards, your friend,

OSCAR S. BUNTING.

LEE'S, S. C., September 20th, 1890.

Dear Madam—Permit me to acknowledge with gratitude the reception of a volume containing a sketch of Ex-Gov. B. F. Perry, your illustrious and lamented husband, which I should have acknowledged sooner, but circumstances would not admit. While I was not honored with a personal acquaintance with Gov. Perry, I have been so impressed with his character, that I feel he should be revered by every lover of genius and admirer of talent. And it may be well said, when his manly form had passed from the scene of action, Carolina's brightest star had had its setting.

A man unequalled in integrity, of deep forethought, not ruled by the voice of a people, but by his own well matured convictions. I have read with the greatest interest the many sketches from Gov. Perry's own hand, and though he be dead, his words of profound wisdom will have their lasting impress.

I am also in receipt of a book sent by you containing "Letters," showing the high appreciation, admiration and love man has for woman. In perusing said book, with all of its chasteness, and looking back down the vista of time fond memories of the past cluster thick around me.

Allow me to thank you for your remembrance in sending me a book of "Letters," whose purity and beauty of language could only be written and conceived by one whose heart is pure and undefiled. I will ever be grateful for your kindness. With profoundest respect, I remain,

Your obedient servant, D. PAUL SOJOURNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10, 1890.

Dear Madam—A few evenings ago Mrs. W. H. Perry gave me two volumes which you have had published of Essays, Speeches, &c., of your distinguished husband. I have not words to tell you how much delighted I have been with them. Both from their subject and from my recollections of Maj. Perry. I knew Maj. Perry all my life, and knew him as well as a boy could know a man in the maturity of his powers. Several winters in Columbia I ate at the same table with Maj. Perry and Richard Yeadon of Charleston, and can now recall many of the bright sayings that used to pass between Yeadon and his "Tall Amicus," as he used to call Maj. Perry. After a somewhat varied life, in many places with many persons, I am certain I have never heard anything in conversation to equal the ceaseless flow of *jeu d'esprit* and repartee that was the daily table talk at a Columbia hotel. Please receive my thanks for the books, many of the incidents therein I remember to have heard from my parents, but they, with all others who had any personal knowledge of the matters, have passed away. And Maj. Perry alone has preserved them for future generations. Many of the things he tells are new to me and all would have been lost had it not been for the industry of Maj. Perry, prompted by his labor of love. All Carolina is deeply indebted to Maj. Perry for his work.

You will notice I can only think of him as Maj. B. F. Perry. By that title, as far back as I can recollect, he was

a noted man in all Carolina, as a politician, a lawyer, and a scholar, a *gentleman* who never swerved from his honest convictions, no matter what the opposition or inducement might be. A man who only needed the convictions of his own conscience to openly advocate, or vigorously oppose, any measure, no matter what might be the tide of public opinion or popular clamor. And who was fortunate enough to have seen the most of those opposing him, converted to the wisdom of his views. Again thanking you for the book, believe me,

Most respectfully,

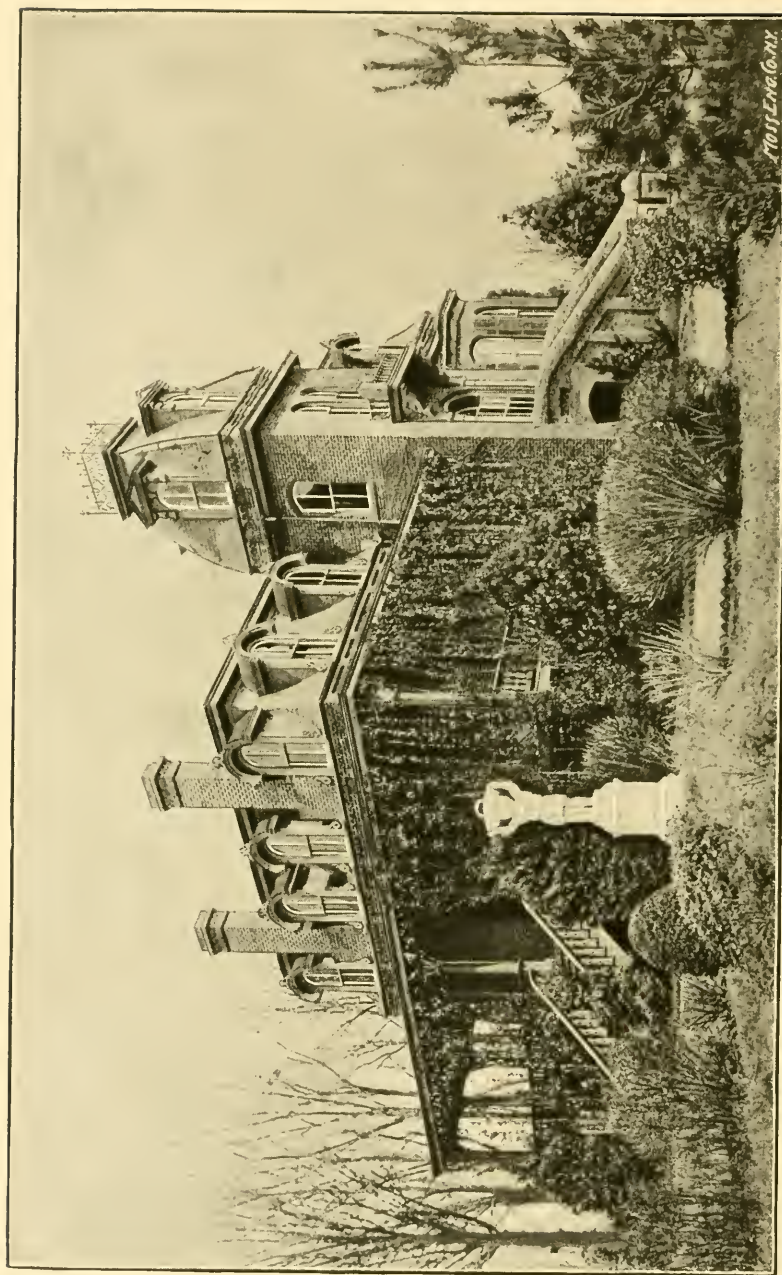
MAURICE A. MOORE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 6TH AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

Jan. 21st, 1891.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Mrs. W. H. Perry informs me that you have never received my letter acknowledging the reception of the two volumes of Maj. Perry's letters.

Allow me to assure you that I am not in *Laches*. I wrote immediately. I would not be so derelict in my duty as to fail in my acknowledgment to a lady. But in this instance I was more especially bound to acknowledge the receipt. For to me the books were a revelation. I had known Maj. Perry as well as a comparative boy could a man in the prime of his life. But I knew him as a lawyer, a legislator and a politician. I knew nothing of his home life. And I don't know of anything that has been so unexpected to me, as to find that the man I knew as an astute and industrious lawyer, a watchful, cautious legislator, a fearless, positive politician, should have such a home feeling, one never absent. 'Tis surprising to read in his letters to you of some act of legislation he is interested in, telling you of his doubts, hopes and fears—who is for and who against the bill—suddenly to interject directions to Jim about killing the hogs. In the midst of a "Resume" of the chances of some judicial election, as to the probable fate of the various candidates, to say without any introduction "tell Will I have bought him a knife." In a description of his triumph in some act of legislation, while detailing the compliments he had received from his brother members, he says I have bought you a lamp, or some china. In specu-



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lating upon what time he will be able to reach home from his circuit he says, "if you pay your visit, start early." In the height of his gratification at his election he tells you how to manage your reception and wine party as it will be least fatiguing to you.

I am indebted to you for the books. All Carolina knew Maj. Perry as a public man—all knew him as a man who had passed his whole life advocating an unpopular doctrine. All knew him as a man who, after destitution, wretchedness and woe had been brought on our State, (in consequence of the neglect of his admonitions,) fought and labored for its protection and relief in a manner that can never be surpassed. All knew him as a public man—his public life is written in the history of his State. But none knew him in his higher and holier sphere—as a husband and father—till the publication of these letters.

I am, most respectfully, MAURICE A. MOORE.

U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY, ANNAPOLIS, MD., Aug. 29, 1889.

My dear Madam—In officially acknowledging the receipt of the books you so kindly presented to our Library, I cannot resist the temptation to ask if B. F. Perry, who entered this Academy in October, 1857, and died in 1860, was a son of yours, or a relative. If so, my object is to bear testimony to his high character while here. The writer was a class-mate of his and a most intimate friend. The name carries me back to those pleasant old times, which I can never forget. Had he lived no doubt we would have met in the South during the war. I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken, resting assured it was prompted by an affectionate remembrance of an old class-mate.

Most respectfully yours,

JULIAN MURRAY SPENCER.

NOTE—Frank Perry died July 3, 1860, pronounced one of the handsomest young men ever seen.

U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY,
ANNAPOLIS, MD., Sept. 11, 1889.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I received your letter and I need not tell you how very much pleasure it gave me to find that my surmise was correct, that you are the mother of my old class-mate, Frank Perry. The photograph came last night. It is beautiful, and shows such taste in the appearance of the sacred spot where rest your loved ones. Since reading the books presented by you to our Library, I can well call to mind the whole course of your noble, unselfish husband, both at the beginning of our war troubles and since. My father held almost the same views as your husband, was opposed to secession and supported Mr. Douglass in the campaign of 1860, but the cloud had been gathering so long, the storm had to come. The result fell on the just and unjust. The beginning of the war found me here, on the eve of graduation. I had but one course to pursue, go with my people, for while Maryland—my State—did not secede, her sympathies were all with the South. I resigned, went South, and was made a Lieutenant in the Confederate States Navy. Served at Drury's Bluff, on the James River, and for the last two years of the war I was on the Mobile station, where I was at the general surrender, 10th May, 1865. Does it not seem strange I should have drifted back to my old *alma mater*. Suddenly the Assistant Librarian of this Academy died. I was recommended for the position by Capt. Wm. T. Sampson, U. S. N., the present Superintendent.

Would you not like sometime to come and see this beautiful Academy? Annapolis is quite an old place. I need not assure you what a great pleasure it would give me to wait on you in any way.

* * * * *

I fear, my dear Mrs. Perry, your patience is exhausted, but I hope you will pardon me. When I get to recalling old times, I feel as if I could not stop. While we can hardly cease longing for our departed ones, yet in the case of your dear boy, I feel it was a blessing to him that he was taken. His conduct while here was so noble, pure and gentle; he was more fitted to join the angels than any of us.

If I have omitted to mention anything you wish to

know, please write me. You will please excuse any imperfections in my letter. It is written at my desk, where I am constantly interrupted. I shall be very glad to have the books you speak of, if it will not trouble you too much.

I esteem it a great pleasure you pay me in sending the photograph. I shall treasure it. My wife joins in kind regards. With many wishes for your happiness, allow me to sign myself as

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,

JULIAN MURRAY SPENCER.

504 NORTH 32D ST., WEST PHILADELPHIA,

May 14th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—The book of letters, written by your dear, good husband, was received on the 3rd inst. I hardly know which I appreciate the most, your kind remembrance or the book. The book is charming, surpassing eulogy, full of the richest utterances of the heart, taking one back to days of long, long ago. Governor Perry realized as few can, that when he married he laid the coping-stone of his life. Having garnered up the richest treasures of his heart, he consecrated them to the idol of his affection, making the lives of two blend in beautiful harmony, showing how grandly good married life is, when it rests on true affection and worthiness. Please accept my warmest thanks for so much delightful reading. Then the pictures are a treasure to me. The free circulation of the book would have a healthful influence by giving a higher and better tone to society, showing how the union of excellency makes happiness in all the realities of life. The reminiscences of the past must be very grateful to you. Now you have your children, after the same likeness, to give you joy and comfort.

Words cannot express our sorrow in not having our dear, good Doctor Perry at our right hand; we do not like to think of him as one so far, far away. But *Hope*, "the anchor of life," bears us up. We know that rest, a long, long rest, is his only safety. The blind poet has said, "They who wait, do serve." We all bear him in our earn-

est remembrance to the kind care and keeping of our Heavenly Father, who doeth all things well.

Please accept our best wishes for yourself and your family.

Yours gratefully,

AMELIA W. ANDREWS.

46 HENDERSON ST., COLUMBIA, S. C., 25th April, 1890.

Dear Madam—It is needless to say how highly I appreciate your kindness in favoring me with a copy of your distinguished husband's correspondence.

His remarkable character, independent, upright, and public spirited, and the valuable services, which his unique position at the close of the war enabled him to render his native State, must always secure him signal mention in even the briefest history of South Carolina. These Letters not only admirably reveal the man, but contain so much that is illustrative of the unwritten history of a critical period, that I feel sure you will be thanked by future generations of inquirers into the causes of our great civil struggle and its immediate results.

Your own interest in the work of collecting and selecting these valuable memorials I can well understand and sympathize with. The daughters of John Wilson and of Sydney Smith, and the widow of Chevalier Bunsen were privileged to do this for their great dead; and it seems to me that in the hands of women such memorial tributes are more graceful, and can be made tenderer and truer, than when they are undertaken by men. We are at that stage in the history of our State, when all that sheds light upon our past is of value. To these personal sketches of Gov. Perry, for instance, the future historian will be deeply indebted.

I can consistently say nothing that could be construed into condemnation of those to whom your husband was opposed in his earlier career. But I can and do admire and respect his earnestness and sincerity, his independence and consistency, and his devotion to South Carolina, and I sympathize with the sense of bitterness which must often have come over him when he felt himself misconstrued and misunderstood, and can well understand what an intense

gratification it must have been to him at last to know that full justice was done him by the hearts and minds of his fellow citizens when the evil days of Reconstruction came. He had long before forgiven the hasty utterances of those who in the heat of debate may have wounded his sensibilities; and I do not believe there were any of his former antagonists who did not cordially esteem and honor him.

With respectful wishes for your welfare and that of all your household, and with many thanks for your kind gift, and with high regard for your wifely devotion and the memory you fondly cherish, I am, dear madam,

Very truly yours, CHARLES WOODWARD HUTSON.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., April 7, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Thanks for your interesting volumes received by express on our return from a few weeks sojourning South—no farther than Washington. I have read the “Letters” with much interest, some of them carrying me back to boyhood days. Your devotion to your husband’s memory is simply beautiful—and he was *worthy of it all!* The best and only monument one needs, is the heart that loves one best!

Thanks for your wish for another photograph—you have the latest of your old friend. I shrink from another sitting. That likeness of yours in the book is lovely, and I recall you in it. My wife and daughter desire me joining their regards to mine, to say that we all will be delighted to see you under our roof-tree.

I thank you specially for the “*first series*,” which I have carefully perused, and perhaps with more interest than the “*second series*.” Why? Because it brought me nearer to you, as I knew you at your mother’s house in New Haven or under the roof-tree “on the green”! Ah! those “halcyon days of youth,” when all was young!

I don’t look in the mirror as I used to!—

“The soul’s dark cottage, battered and decayed,
Lets in the light thro’ chinks which Time has made.”

But Time, tho’ it may plant gray hairs in the head of youth, and cast deep furrows on his brow, does not reach

the heart—*that* is the last to stand affected. Death begins at the extremities—

“Even in our ashes live the wonted fires.”

I was just thinking—how singular that about the time you fell in love with your husband, I had something of the same kind of love falling with *a man*, and some fifteen years my senior! He, too, is dead! I send you herewith some remarks of mine at his grave and monument unveiling. Perhaps they may interest you—at all events they were, as the French say, “*du cœur*.” As I have no other copy at hand I will ask you to return the newspaper clipping to me—my children may sometime wish to read it.

The weather now with us is delightful, and the old elms in their “living green” recall the old hymn—

“So to the Jews fair Canaan stood,
While Jordan rolled between.”

Have you forgotten it?

And keep, I pray you, all I have above written (an old fellow’s nonsense?) in the book and volume of the brain—hain by, as people used to put rose leaves between the pages of a folio, album, or prayer book!

If you come North this Summer we all will be pleased to welcome you to “Maple Cottage”—but we go to the mountains in July. In the meantime and at all times, I remain,

Faithfully your old friend,

COLIN M. INGERSOLL.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 16th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I regret very much that I have been compelled to delay writing you my thanks and appreciation of your beautiful gift and valued addition to our library. It has been owing first to my absence from Columbia, and since my return a house full of guests.

Believe me, dear madam, I am deeply gratified at being numbered among the favored ones. My admiration for the life and character of your distinguished husband has been a legacy received from my own and my husband’s father, who enjoyed the privilege of a personal acquaintance and friendship with Gov. Perry, but the perusal of these letters receives me, as it were, into the family circle.

and brings me within the charmed influence of his pure and beautiful domestic life. No souvenir more exquisite could have marked the fifty-second anniversary of your marriage. With kind regards, I am

Gratefully yours, JULIA MANNING RICHARDSON.

WASHINGTON AND LEE COLLEGE,

LEXINGTON VA., April 22, 1890.

My dear Madam—I have just received the handsome copies of the books "Letters of Gov. Benjamin Franklin Perry to his Wife," that you have been kind enough to present to this institution. It is a valuable and acceptable contribution to its Library, and I cordially thank you for it, on behalf of our Faculty, and for myself. I have read with great interest *all* the books you have been so good as to send us, and wish we had many men like Gov. Perry. I will read the letters as soon as I can do so, and write to you about them. I should think they ought to be both profitable and interesting to our boys, although they do not have much time for reading outside of their courses of study—or at least they think they do not.

Thanking you again for your kindness to us, I remain, with best wishes for your happiness,

Faithfully your friend and servant,

G. W. CUSTIS LEE.

P. S.—I mail you herewith a copy of our Students' Magazine of last June, containing an address to the Alumni by Prof. Thom. If you have already seen it, you can give this copy to any one who may care to have it.

G. W. C. L.

SUPT'S OFFICE, ALABAMA INSANE HOSPITAL,

P. BRYCE, M. D., Superintendent,

TUSKALOOSA, ALA., Feb. 14, 1891.

My dear Madam—I beg to acknowledge the receipt by express of four bound volumes and one pamphlet containing the life, letters and addresses of your honored husband. I have not had an opportunity to do more than glance at the contents of these valuable books, but I have seen

enough to know that I shall be most delightfully and profitably entertained by their careful perusal.

Mrs. Bryce and I are natives of South Carolina, and we take the deepest interest in all that concerns that peerless old State, and especially the lives and labors of her distinguished sons, among whom there is none more honored than your lamented husband, Gov. B. F. Perry. I remember seeing Governor Perry very often in the capitol at Columbia, and though I was a mere boy, I can still recall the inspiring effect which his splendid appearance and oratory produced upon me.

I thank you, dear madam, for the handsome gift, and I wish for you a long continuance of the happy and useful life which has thus far attended you. With sincere esteem,
I am, Yours truly, P. BRYCE.

GILREATH CONSTRUCTION CO., BIRMINGHAM, ALA..

July 31st, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I received the book that you sent me, and would have acknowledged receipt sooner but it came to Birmingham during my absence at Blount Springs, where I had gone for a week's rest.

I have, as you know, always had a great admiration for Gov. Perry. I knew when I was a boy that he was a great man from hearing my father talk about him. This was in Southern Georgia. Afterwards, my father moved back to Carolina, and I began to see him. I then realized the fact myself that he was really the great man that my father had pictured him. Vardry McBee and myself would often talk about him an hour at a time. You know how Vardry loved and admired his "uncle Perry," and what a great pleasure it was for him to talk about him.

I have a magnificent picture of Gov. Perry which I now keep hanging on the wall over my desk, in my office. Every one who sees it admires it, and speaks of what a great and grand looking face he has. He had undoubtedly the grandest looking face and countenance of any man that ever lived. I have never seen, in person or the likeness of any man, that had such a face. He was a man who

would have attracted attention in any assembly in the world.

Again thanking you for the book, and with kind regards to Ben and all your family, I am

Yours truly,

BELTON GILREATH.

FEMALE COLLEGE, GREENVILLE, S. C., June 3d, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—The books you were so kind as to send, were handed me last Thursday. I appreciate highly the compliment paid both to our Society and myself in the gift. I have already read portions of the books in the copies previously presented to our Library, especially the "Reminiscences" and "Addresses." There can be but *one opinion* in regard to them. Their clear and vigorous style, the masterly sketches of character, together with the amount of information contained therein, will ever render them, to young and old, entertaining and instructive reading. As you have no doubt frequently been told, you are accomplishing a good work in thus preserving and placing within the reach of the coming generations of young men, examples of a true and noble manhood that is becoming too rare in our world.

There is no better spur to ambition than the example of a noble life. Many an eminent man has testified that he first realized the grand possibilities of his own nature, by seeing what had been achieved by others. Thus, he that lives a truly worthy life, confers an inestimable benefit upon posterity; and he who preserves the record of such a life likewise greatly blesses his race. In both of these respects your noble husband has distinguished himself, and posterity will delight to honor his memory.

When the pressure of work is less, I hope to read more fully the books you have done me the honor to present, but further reading I know will only confirm and deepen the opinion I herein express.

Very respectfully yours,

MARY C. JUDSON.

SUNNY SIDE, CHESTER CO., S. C., June 10th, 1890.

My dear Friend—(Please pardon this familiarity, for as such I must be permitted to regard you in the future.)

You have again placed me under everlasting obligations and undying gratitude to you for two volumes of "Letters of Gov. B. F. Perry to his Wife."

Could I command that perfect presence of mind, and clearness of intellect, amidst all the noise, bustle and clamor which so often attended your illustrious husband when he attempted to write to his "Dear Wife," I might approach the task before me with more alacrity. Suffice it for me to say, that I shall only speak of Gov. B. F. Perry as he is set forth in the volumes above referred to.

First. As an affianced lover, he was tender, true and faithful. Second. As a "Benedict," he was kind, generous and loving. Thirdly. As a man of a family, he was firm without severity, indulgent without being effeminate. Gov. Perry was a man that happily combined everything that goes to make the man. When you have found a *man*, you have not far to go to find a *gentleman*. You cannot make a gold ring out of brass. You cannot change a California crystal to a diamond. You cannot make a *gentleman* till you first find a *man*. A gentleman is a human being combining a woman's tenderness with a man's courage. He is just a *gentleman*, no more, no less—a diamond polished that was first a diamond in the rough.

Gov. Perry was a man that happily reflected all that was good, great and wise. As a lawyer, statesman, orator, husband and father, he was what Judge Munro styled him, "The Grandest Man South Carolina ever produced!"

With many, yes, very many bright wishes for your future, I remain as ever your most humble servant,

W. G. AUSTIN.

P. S.—You will please pardon carelessness in writing, as I am forced to write with my left hand, having lost my right hand in the war.

W. G. A.

302 PEACHTREE ST., ATLANTA, GA., Feb. 21, 1891.

My dear Madam—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the volumes which you were so good as to send me. Valuable in themselves as a splendid contribution to my Library, I prize them greatly as a gift from yourself, and as a tribute to that great and honored statesman,

Governor Benj. F. Perry. His illustrious career shed a glory upon South Carolina.

It so happened that I formed an early acquaintance with Gov. Perry, having read law in the same office with him in Columbia for some months, soon after my graduation at the South Carolina College. I never lost sight of him, but observed with interest and *sympathy* his honorable course in public life to its close.

I beg you to accept my thanks for your considerate attention to me in sending books which I so highly appreciate. I have already written to Col. John W. DuBose thanking him for his friendly suggestion to you in regard to the gift of the books which he *knew* I would prize.

Believe me, dear madam, very sincerely yours,

HENRY W. HILLIARD.

SUMMERVILLE, S. C., Oct. 4th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I know that you will freely pardon my seeming neglect when I assure you that most of my spare time has been devoted to reading the “Reminiscences” and “Sketches” of the volumes you kindly sent me. Your favors in that line come thick upon me. I prize them very much—the last not the least—though all are more than welcome.

The Governor in his sketch of William Lowndes expresses much surprise at the fact, that so few biographies of our great men have been written. But I must confess that I greatly prefer full, short sketches of their lives and characteristics, to any biography, such as usually encumber the book shelves. The more especially do I prefer the sketches when like those written by Gov. Perry, they give us the pith and marrow neatly and closely packed, like the kernel in the butter-nut. I greatly wonder how 'midst the editorial and professional cares of his busy life, he found time to write so much and so well.

Very truly yours,

B. C. PRESSLEY.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 8, 1890.

Dear Madame—Please accept my many thanks for the compliment conferred by sending the several volumes containing the letters, speeches and addresses of your distinguished husband, also the “Sketches” of prominent public men, especially those of our own State. I have read these volumes with much pleasure and instruction, particularly the speeches and addresses of Ex-Gov. Perry, who was evidently a man of large reading and literary attainments outside of his profession. In him was combined in a remarkable degree the more solid attainments of the jurist with the graces of the classical scholar, and more than all the virtues of the patriot as exhibited in his strong devotion to his country and his opposition to the Secession movement. His mind was always well balanced, and he never allowed blind passions to come in to disturb that balance, or obscure his judgment. He was fond of reading history and general literature by way of recreation to relieve his mind from the severe strain which his profession necessarily engendered. He had read the character and lives of distinguished men, with a view to imitate their virtues; had familiarized himself with the laws and institutions of the people of different periods, not with a view simply to collate and compare different codes, but more with a view to analyze them—to ascertain the manners, habits, customs and necessities which originated or created them, and after this manner, like Montesquien—to discern the genius and spirit of the law “*en esprit des tois*” had searched the annals of the past—not with a view simply of studying the struggles and decay of political factions or parties, or the rise and fall of the different dynasties based on ancient traditions, but more with a view of tracing the birth, progress and development of free institutions—the various transitions incident to human society—more with a view of tracing the progress of human reason and the arts and sciences across the chaos of revolutions, and of ascertaining their developments, their errors and their losses. Yes, as the Pelican feeds its offspring from its own bosom, so history, replete with instruction, became for him a storehouse of knowledge and the aliment of truth and virtue. Ex-Gov. Perry was a *model* man and a model

for imitation, and as the productions of Athenian art which emanated from the chisels of Phidias and Praxiteles and the pencil of Apelles made them models for the more modern and rising artists of Rome; so the virtues and attainments of this eminent jurist, scholar and statesman as reflected in his private character, writings and public services, make him a model for the rising jurists of our State. There was no *duplicity* about Ex-Gov. Perry—no *trick-track*—no *trimming* between parties—no “*poltroonerie*”—but *loyal, open, bold, independent*, and true to his convictions, he advocated principles which he honestly believed to be true and right, at all hazards and under circumstances the most trying.

Please accept, madame, the assurances of my highest consideration.

J. G. SEABROOK.

RICHMOND, VA., May 2, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—It is with great appreciation of your kindness that I write you this to acknowledge the book of “Gov. Perry’s Letters to his Wife,” which you so kindly sent to me. It came safely and I have read more than once in it. I notice that, among many other affectionate traits in his character, he certainly had the greatest consideration for you, for his letters show that he laid before you all his actions and his plans. This must be a pleasure for you to think of now that he is gone, and in reading them over I think you would feel that they had just been written and had come to you for the first time.

I must thank you, too, for your thoughtfulness and kindness in sending me an Easter card. And Emily must also share my thanks with you for the same pleasant reminder of a friendship which I trust shall continue what it is as long as life lasts.

I was and still am glad Mr. Holly had such a splendid class for confirmation. May they stand by their solemn vows and know what they have done, is my hope and prayer.

With my best wishes for you and yours, Mrs. Beattie, and all at Sans Souci, and again thanking you for your kindness, I am,

Very truly yours,

JOHN Y. DOWNMAN.

NEW YORK, Oct. 11th, 1890.

My dear Cousin Lizzie—What must you think of my serious neglect to acknowledge your present sent me last June. It is no fault of mine—the books reached me when we were suffering the greatest affliction on account of the loss of my dear mother and our youngest child. I say, reached me; I should have said came to the office and the book-keeper, knowing my troubles, placed them in the back of the safe and they remained there until yesterday, when I discovered them by accident.

I can assure you it was a great treat to me to read these letters, so well written, so plain, frank and honest. Who that was born of noble principles could but admire the grand man who wrote those loving, manly words to his sweet-heart, and then afterwards the letters as head of the family.

Cousin, there is no one you have sent the letters to, who has appreciated them more—and who could have been more entertained from beginning to end. If you have any other series published since the second, do send them to me. Jennie (my wife) will write you for herself—she appreciates them as much as I did, she says *more*, and especially the letters written from Columbia.

Tell Fanny when she sends a package by express to always notify the addressed by mail.

With a great deal of love, I am very truly your cousin,
ROBERT HAYNE MARTIN.

AIKEN, S. C., April 16th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—A copy of the "Letters of Gov. Benjamin Franklin Perry to his Wife, second series," together with your kind note, lie before me. You will please accept my thanks for your kindness, and permit me to assure you that I appreciate the compliment paid me by sending me this valuable, interesting and instructive book. I am sure that, besides honoring the memory of your illustrious husband, you are conferring a lasting benefit upon the young men of the State; because the young profit by the example of the old, and how can we profit by example if the acts and thoughts of the leaders of their day and gen-

eration are not preserved and within our reach. Your life-work now is as useful as it is touching; you aid the living, and you honor the dead. I am certain that I voice public opinion when I express the hope that your life may be spared, and that you will continue the work you are now conducting.

I appreciate the kindness and courtesy shown to me while in Greenville, and regret that my duties prevented my calling upon you before I had to hurry over to Abbeville.

With great respect for yourself and daughter, I am

Very truly yours,

JAMES ALDRICH.

GEORGETOWN, S. C., April 19, 1890.

Dear Madame—Just as I was on the point of discharging a long-neglected duty by thanking you for the photograph and views of Sans Souci which you so kindly sent me through Mr. Dozier last January, I received through the mail a copy of the "Second Series—Letters from Gov. Perry," to yourself. The pressure of professional engagements has prevented me from giving it a careful examination, but I have had time to read a few of the letters, and I beg to express to you my sincere gratitude for the pleasure which they have given me. The book is a delightful reflex of the singularly candid, modest and generous nature of your lamented husband, and will do much to bring him and his memory nearer than ever to the hearts of his countrymen.

To have my last letter to you published in the company of such charming letters as these is an honor of which I shall always feel unworthy.

Permit me to again thank you for your courtesy, and believe me, dear madame,

Yours very respectfully,

WALTER HAZARD.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 13th, 1890.

My dear Madam—Upon my return from Richmond, Va., where I had been to take part in the unveiling of Gen. R. E. Lee's monument, I found myself under further obliga-

tions to you, for a copy of the first series of Governor Perry's letters to his wife, and the volume has been read with much pleasure, I assure you, my dear madam, by me.

In perusing it the thought rose in my mind that our natures, however stern and intellectual, are alike softened by the magic wand of the god whom it has pleased artists to paint blind; this beautiful part of us will, at least, live forever. And in acknowledging the honor conferred upon me by your thoughtful kindness in sending me also a copy of the second series of this valuable book, I beg to say that the polite style and beautiful diction of these letters would be creditable to Sir Walter Raleigh, and places their distinguished author among the knightly princes of a courtly age.

With much respect, I remain, my dear madam,

R. S. DESPORTES.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 20th, 1890.

Madam—I am greatly obliged for the honor and kindness you have done me, in sending the volumes of "Sketches," of "Reminiscences," and of "Letters," by your late lamented husband, Governor Perry, and I shall read them with increasing delight. The "Tribute" came with the volumes; and I am happy in knowing that one who illustrated and exemplified the nobler qualities of manhood, not alone in his great life-work, but, also, in his daily walk and conversation, should be appreciated by all who knew him; and that he has already taken that exalted place in the opinion of living men as one of the great character-builders of South Carolina. Those who have read the "Letters" assure me, that in them I will find the ripest fruit of his genius—of his head and heart!

Mr. Belton Gilreath had given me the "Sketches" quite a year ago, and I read them with great pleasure and instruction. They led me to sources of knowledge never reached before, and I might properly, as examples, refer to those of Col. Benj. Cleveland and Benjamin Roebuck. In all you have done to preserve his literary work, you have labored abundantly for the good of the American people, more particularly for the rising generation.

It was my good fortune to enjoy the acquaintance of your son, Hon. Wm. Hayne Perry, during the term of the forty-ninth Congress, and formed a sincere respect and attachment for him. May I venture, in view of this, to express the hope that many years of great happiness are in store for you to be filled up with the delights of precious memories; and that you may be continually cheered by the triumphs and good deeds of your worthy children.

Believe me, madam, with sentiments of great respect,
Your obedient servant, JOHN M. MARTIN.

NEWBERRY, S. C., Aug. 20th, 1890.

Dear Madam—Again I have been the recipient of your kindness in sending me a copy of "Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife." I assure you I appreciate this, not only on account of the kindly feelings which prompted the sending, but also on account of the book itself, which presents to my mind a new and most charming feature in the character of your husband, to-wit: in his pure, delicate, considerate, warm affection for and attachment to yourself and his children, which is so beautifully and tenderly manifested in said letters. No wonder you have shown so much devotion to and admiration for *such* a devoted husband, who could always find time, amid the trials, vexations and worry of a busy professional and political life, to think of and commune with his family. The influence of woman, in the character of wife, and especially as a trusted, devoted companion, always has a powerful, mollifying, sustaining influence upon the character of the husband, as these letters of your devoted husband exhibit in an eminent degree in his wife and trusted companion. I say it not to flatter, but because, from these letters, I feel it to be true, that your devotion and sustaining influence had a great deal to do in enabling your husband amid the conflicts of political life to bear himself so firmly and nobly, guided only by what he regarded the polar star of *duty*.

Thanking you for this very kind remembrance of me, I remain, with great respect,

Your obedient servant, LAMBERT J. JONES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Let me thank you for your kindness in sending your two interesting volumes to me, and which I value greatly as tokens of your regard. I should have written you sooner, but I was confined to my room for ten days by a rather sharp attack of illness. This is the first day I have been able to leave my room, and I hope it is not too late for me to make my grateful acknowledgment of your remembrance of me.

I see your son, Congressman Wm. H. Perry, every day, and I should like to see him the Governor of South Carolina. With my kindest regards and best wishes, I am, my dear madam, very respectfully and truly your friend,

WADE HAMPTON.

BENNETTSVILLE, S. C., June 25th, 1890.

Dear Madam—It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the receipt by mail of the handsome "Tribute to Benjamin Franklin Perry, Ex-Governor of South Carolina," and "Reminiscences, with Speeches and Addresses, by B. F. Perry, Ex-Governor of South Carolina," second series.

For these valuable and highly appreciated volumes I return to you my sincere thanks. In a previous communication I endeavored to express to you my admiration for your illustrious husband. But the more I read of his addresses and writings, the more am I convinced of his greatness of head and heart. He was indeed a man worthy of all the praise that has been given him, and of even higher tribute. In his death the State lost one of her greatest statesmen and truest citizens. To the present and future generation of Carolinians he will stand forth as a bright example of the man of sterling integrity, the patriotic citizen and able, uncompromising statesman.

I have also received the first and second series of Governor Perry's letters to his wife. In making this acknowledgment, I scarcely know how to express my thanks to you for copies of these valued publications. I certainly prize the books very highly, and after reading the series of letters with the greatest pleasure, I am free to say that I cherish a higher estimation of your distinguished husband

than ever before, although he stood in my esteem as a truly great and noble man in his public career.

These beautiful letters, however, reveal him in a new light, that of the fond, true and devoted husband and father, and you are also pictured to us the loving and noble wife of a noble husband. After reading these letters we are not surprised at your devotion to his memory, and your praiseworthy efforts to perpetuate it.

May Heaven bless you in your declining years, the worthy wife of a great man.

Most respectfully and truly, J. H. HUDSON.

ROSELANDS, EDGEFIELD CO., S. C.,

13th August, 1890.

My dear Madam—Your gift to Mrs. Brooks and myself of "Gov. Perry's Letters to his Wife—first series," has reached us after an unaccountable delay, and I hasten to make our grateful acknowledgment. As a token of remembrance and friendship we prize the book most highly, and we value it for its intrinsic merit. Both old and young can derive pleasure and profit from its perusal. The private and domestic virtues displayed in these letters serve to portray the inner life and character of the man, and together with his public record, round off and complete a character, indeed, "without fear and without reproach." How grand for the State, and how proud she should be to point to her Calhoun and her Perry—her admired sons—as statesmen as *pure* as they were great.

These letters present a picture of conjugal felicity and domestic happiness very attractive, and realize the Poet's idea of "indulging the sacred flame of well-placed love," and illustrate the chivalric and beautiful sentiment, "the bravest are the tenderest, the loving are the daring." This handsome and durable record of the conjugal relations of his parents is an honor to the son who conceived the idea. It should be regarded a priceless legacy by your children and their posterity.

With love from Mrs. Brooks to you and Mrs. Beattie, I am, dear madam, Most sincerely yours,

J. HAMPDEN BROOKS.

THE CITADEL, CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 27, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the "Tribute" to your distinguished husband, Ex-Governor Perry, and also for the Reminiscences, with Speeches and Addresses by him, which you so kindly sent me. I shall place them in my Library, and read and preserve them with great care.

It is a privilege to be able frequently to review the character and life of so noted and exalted a gentleman and statesman as was Governor Perry. It can be truthfully said of but few men that "he was as firm as Cato, and as just as Aristides," but from what I have heard and known of the Governor, through the public press and otherwise, he deserves the exquisite tribute in its fullest and most expressive sense. I had the pleasure, during my short stay in Greenville last Summer, to visit Sans Souci as the guest of your honored son, Congressman Wm. H. Perry, to walk through the halls which once resounded to his father's tread, to scan his ample Library, and to enjoy those lovely views which added such inspiration to the high thought and purpose of the illustrious statesman and hero.

While deeply regretting my failure to meet his faithful companion, help-meet and counsellor, I cherish the hope of realizing that privilege at some time in the future.

I have the honor, my dear madam, to be your respectful and obedient servant,

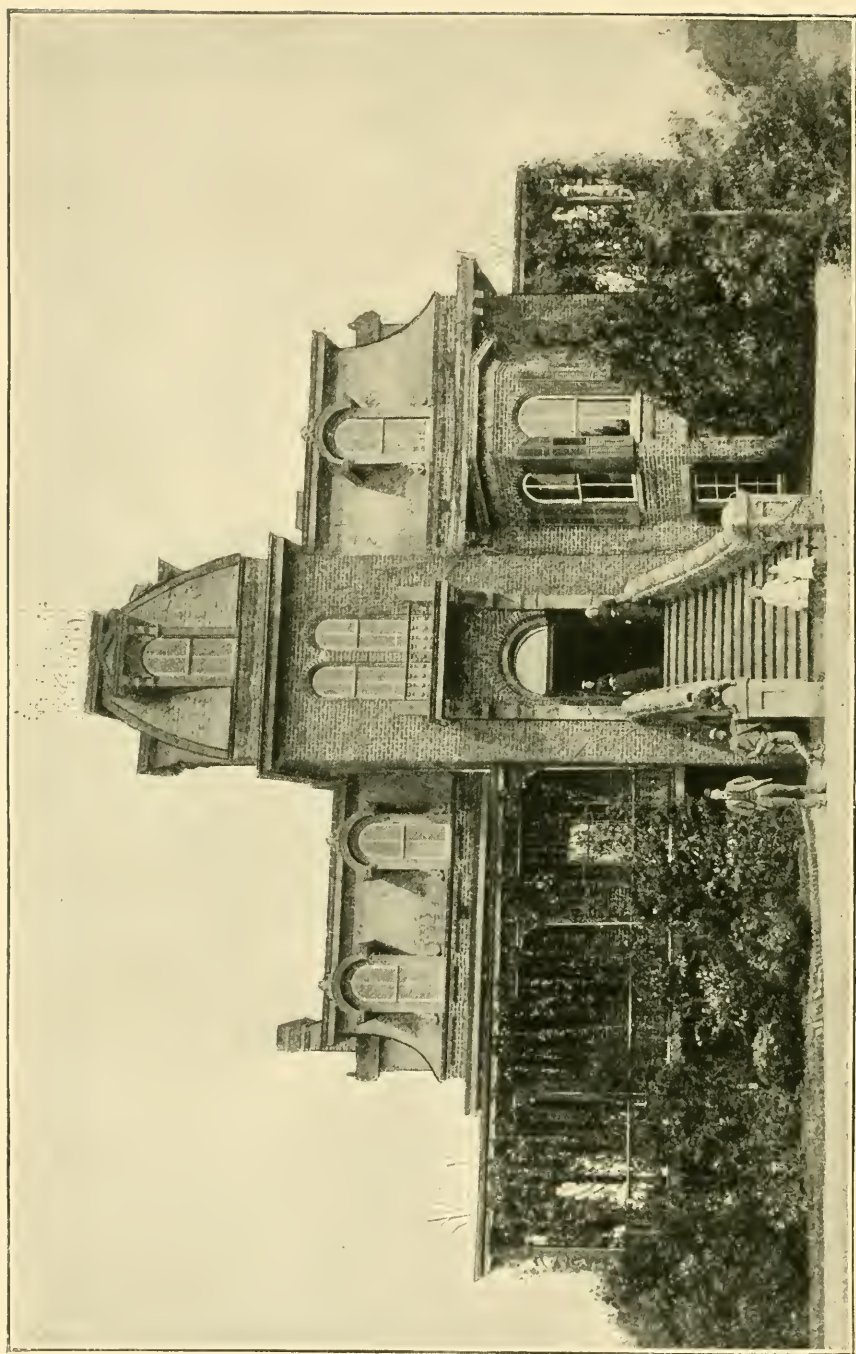
GEORGE D. JOHNSTON.

PASTOR'S STUDY, GREENVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, S. C.,

February 7th, 1891.

Dear Madam—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of "Letters of Gov. Benj. F. Perry to his Wife," arranged and published by his son, Dr. Hext McCall Perry, and a "Tribute," the contribution of your own hand.

One of the greatest pleasures of my life has been derived from reading the biographies of men who had attained merited distinction for a liberal culture of both head and heart. I have experienced peculiar satisfaction from a perusal of the grateful tributes published in memory of Gov.



"SANS SOUCI," RESIDENCE OF GOVERNOR PERRY.

B. F. Perry, your devoted husband and South Carolina's honored statesman.

A patriot in every fibre of his strong nature, he was brave enough to stand alone in his convictions and to oppose, what seemed to him, the unwise counsels of his truest and most respected friends. His heroic spirit performed the highest act of magnanimity, when he submitted to the verdict of the majority and uncomplainingly bore with his fellow-citizens, the evils his own tongue had so eloquently predicted.

Permit me, as one who feels an abiding interest in the welfare of our youth, to thank you for your untiring and loving efforts to put in enduring form the words and deeds of your husband. You have drawn aside the curtain and permitted us to look in upon the thoughts and feelings of a man, who was not only great in the councils of his country, but the central light and magnet of his home. The study of such a character cannot fail to kindle in the reader aspirations for a truer, nobler and more useful life.

Very sincerely yours,

J. A. MUNDY.

CABINET OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 16th, 1890.

Dear Cousin—The beautiful book entitled, "Letters of my Father to my Mother, by Hext McCall Perry, M. D.," with your note, has just reached me. This finely illustrated work brings vividly before me a character which it is pleasant to contemplate. I spent last evening in looking through the two works (first and second series of letters) and shall often refer to them. The sentiments here put forth do credit to husband and wife, and indeed reflect honor on our family line. I am glad to know that a man of such elevated aims, purposes and character has lived and made his mark in life, and it is a like satisfaction to see that he has left members of his family capable of appreciating his moral worth.

I am glad to see a good likeness of your son Hext. Mrs. Perry joins me in sentiments of affectionate regard.

Truly yours,

AMOS PERRY.

SPARTANBURG, S. C., May 19th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I received your very kind letter and called on Mr. DuPre, handed him your order and received a copy of the Biographical Sketches, for which I am *profoundly grateful*. I have read the sketches of many of Carolina's eminent statesmen and admire the accuracy with which Governor Perry delineated their several characters, which proves that he had studied men as well as the principles of our Government and having formed opinions, (whilst always willing to hear others,) he maintained his *honest conviction*, and had the satisfaction of seeing his course *vindicated* and *approved* by the State which he loved so well. He opposed Secession against the powerful influence which then ruled the State. But when the *fatal step* was taken, (although against his honest convictions,) he went with his State, *live or die, sink or swim*. He, like a *noble Roman*, went with his State. The more I read of him the more I admire his bold and fearless character which has given him a National reputation of which his family and State may be justly proud. Nature designed him to be a *leader*. He was fortunate in having a noble wife, devoted to her husband, giving him aid and comfort under all circumstances. Great credit is due to her for her untiring devotion to her noble husband, and whilst I would recommend the life and character of Governor Perry as a model for the young men of the country, I would recommend his noble wife as worthy of imitation to the young women of the country. Having been so long and intimately acquainted with Governor Perry, I feel that I cannot say too much in his praise.

I admired him as a *Patriot*, a *Statesman* and *Friend*. But his letters to his noble wife increases my admiration of my friend, and well may it be said, *such a husband with such a wife* made what may truly be called a *happy home*.

Again thanking you for your kind attention, I am yours truly and respectfully,

GABRIEL CANNON.

CONGAREE, S. C., July 28th, 1890.

Dear Madam—The two copies of the "Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife," which you kindly sent

me, have been received. Please accept from me for Mrs. Adams and myself our thanks for the gift, which we value highly. The books are handsomely bound, and is a suitable habitation for the beautiful thoughts it contains.

Amid the political upheaval which is shaking the State to its very centre, it is difficult to concentrate our thoughts on literary matters—(would that your distinguished husband were alive, to guide the State with his wisdom and firmness through the perils that encompass it.) But I have found a pleasant refuge for my thoughts from the political storms raging without, in the perusal of these letters. I like to know an eminent man at home, on his farm, in the bosom of his family, and these letters show Gov. Perry to have been a man so domestic in his taste, that he says in one of them, "That he could spend every day and hour of his life at home without a wish or inclination to go anywhere." Such a sentiment indicates a fondness of domestic life, and a purity and simplicity of character, always associated with true greatness.

The attractions of Sans Souci afforded Gov. Perry more real pleasure and happiness than the intellectual contests of the Forum or the political arena, though he had won some of their highest prizes with his superior abilities.

Posterity will be greatly indebted to Dr. Perry and yourself for having the opportunity of knowing Gov. Perry in the beauty and simplicity of his private life as well as in the more conspicuous character of the statesman and jurist.

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,

JAMES P. ADAMS.

ANDERSON, S. C., July 10, 1890.

Dear Madam—I am under renewed obligations to you for the valued volume containing letters of your husband to yourself, giving an insight into the domestic life of the great man heretofore unknown outside his own family.

These, when interwoven into the great events of his eventful life adds increased lustre to his name.

To those of us who knew him only as a statesman, patriot, lawyer and friend, it never occurred to us that so

many little things which help to constitute the endearments of "home," could take up so much of his time.

Again thanking you, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours, JOSEPH N. BROWN.

ANDERSON, S. C., Feb. 2d, 1891.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I have been spending my evenings this winter reading to my wife and daughter the letters of Gov. Perry to his wife, and they have been greatly enjoyed by us all. My first impressions on receiving the volume was that it embraced the small things making up part of a great man's life. But a careful reading shows that like all his other works, it stamps greatness on every page.

My wife and daughter join me in returning thanks for your kind remembrance in placing such a valuable work in our hands. With kind regards I am

Sincerely your friend, JOSEPH N. BROWN.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., July 5th, 1890.

Dear Madam—After an absence of weeks I returned home a few days since, and had the honor to receive through your kindness "Letters of Governor Perry to his Wife," "Sketches by Gov. Perry," and "Reminiscences, with Speeches and Addresses by Gov. Perry." For these valuable books please accept my sincere thanks. Through life I have been an admirer of the noble character of Governor Perry. Considered in all the relations of life, I regarded him as "the noblest Roman of them all."

I will necessarily take very great interest in reading these books which time has not yet permitted me to do. They will doubtless constitute a valuable contribution to the history and literature of the day. After a long absence the Governor's photograph brings back many pleasing recollections, and yours recalls the features and the form of one who had not escaped my memory.

I regret that I did not pay you and the Governor a visit before his death.

Again thanking you, dear madam, for your valuable contribution to my taste and pleasure, I am, sincerely,

Your friend, WILLIAM JOHNSTON.

LAURENS, S. C., July 26, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I have read with great interest and, I trust, with profit, the biographical sketches and the addresses contained in the volume recently sent me. I thank you for the pleasure and profit thus afforded me.

Among the sketches I found one of my grand father, Judge Wardlaw, which of course makes me peculiarly grateful for the gift. But apart from this personal interest in the book, I consider it most opportune just now when men's principles and opinions are so swayed by every popular breeze that blows, to have brought to the public mind anything written by your noble husband—"a man of iron nerve, to true occasion true"—so imbued are all his writings with that lofty moral courage and that independent spirit which alone can make an individual or a country truly great.

Yours very truly,

LEWIS W. SIMKINS.

CHERAW, S. C., July 10, 1890.

Mrs. B. F. Perry—Again am I the pleased and honored recipient of valuable books from you—"Reminiscences and Addresses and Sketches," by Gov. Perry, of South Carolina. Dear Madam, I cannot sufficiently express my thanks for the honor conferred on me, nor am I able to tell in words the esteem and admiration I have conceived for that true statesman and noble patriot, your devoted husband.

While a student at the South Carolina College in 1852, I became acquainted with Gov. Perry, and ever regarded him as a most consistent man and excellent statesman. In fact regarded him as one of the brightest stars in our Southern galaxy. The more I read of his writings the higher soars my esteem for his exalted character. He truly was a great and good man! His letters to you show the wonderful affection of a true husband and devoted father. They show more—they speak in living words of the grand and excellent *woman* who was his helpmeet and comfort, for his devotion and affection toward you never changed. South Carolina and the country owe you a debt

of gratitude for your compilation and publication of these valuable records.

May our Heavenly Father bless and keep you always.

Most truly,

JAMES H. POWE.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 27th, 1890.

Dear Madam—I take the very first opportunity to return my thanks for the very handsome volume entitled "Sketches by Governor Perry, of South Carolina," you have been kind enough to send me. I anticipate great pleasure and profit from its perusal.

Few reading men in our country are unfamiliar with the name of Gov. Perry, and the need of our times is a citizenship of similar purity of life and unbending principle.

Respectfully yours,

W. T. THOMPSON.

FURMAN UNIVERSITY, GREENVILLE, S. C.,

June 6th, 1890.

My dear Madam—I am again laid under renewed obligations to you for your generous gifts to the University Library and to my own. I to-day received a bound volume of the "Reminiscences and Addresses," and another of the "Sketches" of Ex-Governor Perry, presented by you to the library of the University; and have also to thank you for your kind remembrance of me personally, in presenting me a volume of the "Reminiscences" and two of the "Letters" for my private library.

I scarcely know whether our country is under greater obligation to your distinguished husband, for his noble example of steadfast, disinterested patriotism, or to yourself in giving permanent form to his writings, and in generously placing them where they will be easily accessible to the present and to succeeding generations of the young men of our country. May you find your reward in the consciousness of having contributed somewhat to our country's well-being.

With sincere respect for yourself, and affectionate regard for my former pupil, Mrs. Beattie, I remain

Yours very truly,

CHARLES H. JUDSON.

RAMSEY'S, SUMTER Co., S. C., Aug. 18th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—A fortnight ago I received the "Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife—First Series," for which you will please accept my thanks. I have read these letters and re-read them with interest. I almost felt as though I was reading an imaginary love story, only these letters were full of a more *earnest* affection than those which the heroes of novels write to their sweethearts. The first letter was itself a love story, and was full of a romantic sentiment. Until I read these letters I did not suspect that Governor Perry had as much romance in his nature as he did.

The passage about great men who were born in the country (pages 33-4) is interesting, especially to a young man like myself, who was born and raised in the country. Governor Perry was another instance of what a country boy can become.

Your love story, as revealed in these "Letters," is an interesting one and I may add that the "hero" and "heroine" had just cause to love and admire each other.

I had the pleasure of meeting Perry Beattie in Columbia last May. Please remember me kindly to the different members of your family. Hoping that you are well, and with many thanks for your kindness, I remain

Sincerely yours,

MCDONALD FURMAN.

CHERAW, S. C., June 4th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I thank you for the two handsome copies of "Letters of Gov. Perry to his Wife," which I have just received. I had already looked into them in the copies you so thoughtfully presented to our Lyceum, and was struck with the deep and untiring devotion to his loved ones which these heart-utterances revealed. A man so affectionate and so constant to his family could not be other than a patriot. And indeed this same constancy to his State was illustrated in his readiness to sacrifice his strong personal convictions to defend her fame and her principles. But great as was the love of your noble husband for his family and his State, it could not be more pronounced

than your own untiring devotion to the precious memories he has left you. Love has woven a bright chaplet for the brow of affection.

The hope of a blessed reunion with your loved husband, in a happier clime than this, must comfort and sustain you.

Very truly,

W. LOWNDES T. PRINCE.

302 PEACHTREE ST., ATLANTA, GA., Feb. 26, 1891.

My dear Madam—I must again thank you for your marked consideration in forwarding to me additional volumes which illustrate the career of your distinguished husband. I find, too, the unbound sheets full of interest. The sketches of Judge Withers and of Hon. J. H. Hammond, revive vividly memories of those two gentlemen. Younger by some years than either of them, I was in college with them, and though they were in an advanced class, I enjoyed a close friendship with them. I have now in my possession letters from both of them. My friendship with Gov. Hammond continued to the day of his death.

Independently of the great public services rendered by Gov. Perry to the State, he has contributed to her history incalculable advantage by his illustrations of the lives of some of the most distinguished of her sons. South Carolina, like the mother of the Gracchi, will point to these as her noblest jewels. Gov. Perry was not only an eminent man; he was a *great* one, and his fame rests on a solid basis. I do not wonder that you prize his memory.

I again beg you to accept my thanks, and to believe me, dear madam,

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,

HENRY W. HILLIARD.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 28th, 1891.

My dear Mrs. Perry—It gives me great pleasure again to testify of my profound admiration for Gov. Perry and of his great worth to our day and generation. I remember as a boy my reverence, rather reverential awe, of Gov. Perry, as he was so calm and dignified in manner, and yet afterwards I knew him as kind, genial and pleasant. If I

were to single out one quality above all others which manifested itself in his life, private and public, in all his speeches and letters, it is *his reality*. Gov. Perry was a real man. Is not the real man the God-like man—the man born from above and sustained in the divine life? There was no division between the outward and inward in him—what he thought he spoke; what he believed he lived. In his private life—in sacred relations to wife and children—this reveals itself. More than all, very strange to us of this day, it manifested itself in his political life. He was a man of principle, of rock—to be found at any time and relied upon. I love to think of him standing alone in the National Democratic Convention, held in this City in May, 1861, reviled and hissed, like some great rock standing grand and immovable out of the sea, with the maddened waves hissing and beating against its base. It has been said by some one that Character is more valuable than Gifts. Gifts are bestowed—character is formed. Governor Perry was blessed with rich gifts, but beneath these was character. He was a man of character. Oh! for such men in this low day of materialism and expediency! Just now among our uncertainties, politicians and parties, which are becoming more bewildered, we need a strong heart, a clear mind, to speak, and in trumpet tones to declare right and duty. Where can such a man be found? Are they wanting now? No wonder Carlyle revered Knox; Cromwell, the strong man. Such are the “salt of the earth,” “the light of the world.” There was no wavering, no uncertainty, no talking about “the will and good of the people” with Gov. Perry—it was all principle; right with him. The man of principle is the simple man with oneness of aim and directness of purpose. It brings simplicity of life, of mind and of heart. The strong, simple man is the tender man. See Gov. Perry in his innermost heart—in his sacred private life as shown by his letters—how true and tender in all relations—as husband, father, friend and master. The noblest legacy that any man can leave to family and State is character—such Gov. Perry has bequeathed to his family and country, a benediction for all time.

In my album I have a photograph of one of your dear boys, “Hayne,” who seemed to me to inherit all the noble

qualities of the Governor. At school he was a universal favorite, attracting and winning the love of old and young. He was a remarkable speaker, the best in our school at that time—full of ardor and sympathy. I can see him now standing in the old school house with flushed cheeks and flashing eyes, declaiming Cataline's "defence." He was a noble, gifted boy. Some might say his life was incomplete. I do not think so—the influence of a pure, sweet life lasts forever in the lives and characters of those who had the privilege to associate with it. May be death at so young an age lent a charm; but "Hayne" has always been enshrined in the memories of my brother and myself.

With love, yours very truly, JOHN GASS.

NOTE.—"Robert Hayne Perry" died November 18, 1872, at the early age of eighteen.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 24, 1891.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I have to ask your pardon for not sooner fulfilling the promise made you at your daughter's house last August at the time you presented me with the Letters, Addresses and Speeches of your much lamented husband. You will believe me, I am sure, when I tell you that after reading the comments of the different papers and of so many of those great and public men that were well acquainted and who were Gov. Perry's associates in public life, I felt my inability to make the effort of eulogizing a man of such worth. I need no greater evidence of his goodness and honor than those letters to his "Dear Lizzy" and his adorable wife. All through his writings, they bear this testimony. I had not the pleasure of an acquaintance with Gov. Perry. The first I saw of him was in the National Democratic Convention in Charleston, S. C., May, 1861, held in Agricultural Hall. A Northern friend, who was a Unionist, and myself entered the hall and took seats together. After hearing the hot war speeches of those fiery secessionists our hearts became saddened, and all hopes of the Union were vain. It was at this juncture that the Hon. B. F. Perry was called to address the people. As he progressed in his speech our hearts began to revive, and it really seemed that there was a cur-

rent of feeling reviving for the Union. Then again all was great excitement, and amid this excitement I left the hall. But my heart went out for Hon. Benjamin Franklin Perry. I have often regretted that I never made his acquaintance, but have looked upon him from his writings as one of the olden time men, as Washington, Kent, Walworth, veterans of the highest honor and whose souls seemed to go out for their country and their country's good. Had the settlement of this knotty subject (secession) been left with such good men, there would have been no secession, no war. All is now past, and these good men, too, are gone. The loss of your beloved husband to you was inestimable; he has left you a legacy of precious memories without a sorrowful recollection to mar your peace. It falls to the lot of but few wives and husbands to be so happily united as you were for so many years in happy companionship.

Ah! Mrs. Perry, it is such unions that makes the separation so painful, and the sense of loneliness so desolate. There is one who has come and taken the measure of your grief and entered the dark solitude, filling it with his own blessed presence and with the light of his own countenance.

Accept my profound thanks for these most valuable books; they will afford me many hours and days of pleasant reading in my loneliness, and most kind remembrances of the giver.

Please bear my kindest regards to your dear daughter, Mrs. Beattie, and believe me yours most truly,

C. N. AVERILL.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 21, 1890.

Dear Madam—Through the courtesy of my pastor, the Rev. G. R. Brackett, D.D., I return thanks for the compliment paid, by sending me copies of *Sketches of American Statesmen*, *Letters of Gov. Perry*, and *Tributes to his memory*. His portrait and residence bring to memory's view his kind attentions to me when as a young man I visited your city in 1857 and was the recipient of his hospitality. I shall always remember the kind notice of me in the *Mountaineer* and the pleasant evening spent at your

beautiful home. But Gov. Perry was one who was always willing and ready to assist in what he thought was right, whether it was to promote the interest of a young man on his opening life of business, or the interest of State or City. I well remember when the flour trade of our City had increased and we were compelled to have an inspection law passed, I went to the Legislature in its interest. Our own delegation said the up-country would never consent to the passage of the law, and told me I had better interest some one from that section. I at once laid the matter before the Governor, he gave it his hearty sanction and co-operation and said he would at once introduce the bill and have it passed.

But why tire you with these instances of his kindness of heart, and willingness to help what was right. Again thanking you for your kindness in sending me the volumes which as I read will recall many pleasant recollections of him who I had the honor to call my friend.

Yours respectfully and truly, J. N. ROBSON.

WOFFORD COLLEGE, SPARTANBURG, S. C.,

April 17th, 1890.

Dear Madam—I received this morning the beautiful volume of "Letters—First Series," which you have so kindly sent to me. Accept my sincere and hearty thanks for your kindness in placing me in the number of those to whom this family memorial is sent. I have been interested already in reading some of the letters incidentally mentioning persons and events familiar to me. I can well imagine these letters showing the statesman in his home-life, will be treasures in your family. They must have to your children and their descendants for generations touching interest and peculiar value. May the fidelity and love so strikingly illustrated in these pages be abiding family traits through coming years. With many wishes for your health and welfare, I am very respectfully yours,

JAMES H. CARLISLE.

CHESTER, S. C., Sept. 27th, 1890.

Dear Madam—I thank you for two volumes received two days ago of speeches, &c., of Governor Perry, and of letters and notices of him by friends and admirers. Many of them indulge in more words of high appreciation, and express themselves in more elegant English than I can, but none of them can exceed me in sincere admiration of his character. Nor can any exceed me in admiration of the loyalty and devotion of his surviving wife to his memory. You are building a monument in commemoration of his virtues that will be more enduring than marble, and the monument thus erected by you to him willequally embalm and perpetuate jointly with him your own name and womanly virtues to future generations. Worthy wife of a worthy husband, you were lovely in your lives, and in death you will not be divided.

Yours truly,

GILES J. PATTERSON.

30 BROAD ST., CHARLESTON, S. C., April 4, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Accept my thanks for your thoughtful kindness in sending the second series of the letters of your husband to yourself. I found the book at home upon my return from a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina University which was quite protracted, and as fatigued as I was, felt revived and cheered at the opportunity you have given me of perusing something additional from South Carolina's gifted, distinguished and noble son.

The several memorial volumes which you have kindly sent me are a most valued addition to my library, and I am charmed to witness the interest my children are taking in reading all of them, and asking information of me of what I know of my personal observation of the Governor.

His name is now quite familiar to my family, and I feel that his virtues and great worth as a statesman and patriot, his constant exhibition of moral courage, his sound and conservative views upon all important questions, will be of incalculable benefit to the rising generation. Your

loyalty to the memory of your distinguished husband is a loving work, and is of great service to the State.

With my kindest wishes, and the earnest hope that your life may be prolonged, I am

Yours very truly,

GEORGE LAMB BUIST.

CHARLESTON, S. C., May 26th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I received yesterday the beautiful copy of Gov. Perry's letters to yourself. I am very grateful to you for your continued consideration. I value these volumes greatly as the record of a man whose character was of the heroic mould, when heroism was required; and whose nature was genial and gentle, except when duty required it to be otherwise. Such men gave to South Carolina the high and dignified position she used to occupy in the minds of men.

Sincerely thanking you for your notice of me, I am most respectfully,

B. H. RUTLEDGE.

CHARLESTON, S. C., 6th June, 1890.

Dear Madam—I have just now received the two volumes you sent me with your very kind letter of the 3d June. I am deeply indebted to you for these valuable additions to my little collection of books. I shall read them with the utmost interest, and I see already by a glance that they will affect very much my impressions of the period they cover.

I have also received by express the two volumes of Gov. Perry's letters, which you have been kind enough to send me. I shall value them highly, and the more so because it has always been one of my hobbies to investigate the personal and social history of South Carolina. You can easily see how welcome to me must be the contemporary impressions of a man of Gov. Perry's intellect and position, of the men, manners and opinions of his day.

Gov. Perry's life covered the most interesting period of South Carolinian history, and I am old enough to have formed some slight idea of the impress made upon it by his personality. It will be exceedingly interesting to trace all of this in detail in his correspondence and reminiscences.

The whole State owes you a debt for rescuing for their benefit from oblivion these valuable contributions to its history. In addition to the general value to me, I shall take a great personal pleasure in noting all the evidences of the friendship, which existed between my grand-father, Judge Huger, and himself. My mother joins in my thanks to you for your recollection of us.

Yours very truly,

D. E. HUGER SMITH.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 10, 1890.

My dear Madam—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the volumes containing the letters of your husband to yourself. They show how excellent Gov. Perry was in the relations that test manhood. This revelation of your husband's inner life can but augment the high estimate placed upon his public career. It shows how he who was a high-minded and resolute man of State was also a devoted husband and father, tender and true.

You have reared a monument to your husband's memory of a character unique and excellent—each stone of which reflects some personal or public virtue of the man. In your labor of love you have my sympathies.

Accept my acknowledgments for your gift and my appreciation of your friendly consideration.

I have the honor to be yours truly and respectfully,

JOHN P. THOMAS.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 19th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I have just received "Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife—First Series." I earnestly hope that my prompt acknowledgment of this favor will be accepted as some extenuation of former shortcomings in this respect. The "Second Series" was received some weeks ago, and my delay in acknowledging your kindness has certainly not been owing to any want of appreciation on my part. I have read these "Letters" with no ordinary pleasure, revealing their distinguished author in his private or domestic character as husband and father .

divested of all trappings of State. I have had only a taste of the "First Series," as they have just been delivered into my hands, but I anticipate a rare treat in these beautiful and lifelike pictures of

"Domestic happiness, the only bliss
Of paradise which has survived the fall."

From a note which you did me the favor to inclose, I am pleased to learn that you have written three hundred pages of Governor Perry's biography—a work which I took the liberty to suggest, and for which you are, in every respect, so well qualified. I shall await the appearance of this volume with the greatest interest, as the cap-stone in that literary monument which you have erected to your lamented husband.

I am, dear madam, very respectfully yours,
E. L. PATTON.

SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
COLUMBIA, S. C., June 19th, 1890.

My dear Madam—Please accept my thanks for "Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife," just received. The Speeches, Biographical Sketches and other writings of Gov. Perry, recently published by you, give a true index to his noble character as a public man and as a private citizen. And now these letters, opening the door as they do to his inner private and domestic life as nothing else could do, complete the picture. The whole presenting a character public, private and domestic, in beautiful harmony, and worthy of all admiration.

Very respectfully, W. D. SIMPSON.

PARSONAGE, GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 29th, 1890.

Dear Madam—I thank you, heartily, for the much valued Christmas present—the four books sent me containing the writings and recollections of your dear husband, the distinguished Ex-Governor B. F. Perry. He was a noble, unassuming, devoted citizen, statesman and scholar, and ardent in his love for the True and the Good. His reverence for God and his esteem for integrity of character, claim my high admiration.

Faithfully yours, J. A. CLIFTON.

4 WRAGG STREET, CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 27, 1890.

Mrs. B. F. Perry will please accept my grateful acknowledgment of her attention in sending me copies of the *Tribute and Sketches*. As memorials of one distinguished in the history of South Carolina as was Gov. Perry, they will occupy a valued place in my library.

I beg also to acknowledge the receipt of the very interesting volume of *Letters* and to express my thanks for the gift. With high regards, I am

Very respectfully,

ROBERT WILSON.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Aug. 25, 1889.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I write to thank you for the two very interesting books sent me by the servant a few days since. I would like to have called and thanked you in person, but have been prevented by business from doing so. I find the books very interesting reading, and regard them as containing very valuable information concerning the history of the State.

For this reason they ought to be of value to every one, while to me they have an additional value in serving to remind me of my good, kind friend who has "gone before" us, as well as of yourself. With renewed thanks for your kindness in thinking of me, I remain

Very truly yours,

JULIUS H. HEYWARD.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Sept. 6th, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Perry—I beg to acknowledge the receipt from you, at the instance of our mutual friend the Hon. Andrew W. Burnet, of the "*Reminiscences of Public Men, with Speeches and Addresses*," (second series), and "*Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife*."

Permit me to assure you of the great pleasure which the receipt of these volumes affords me, and that I shall prize them as among the most valued books in my library. I belong to the next generation to that of your distinguished husband, as he was a contemporary of my father, Maj. Wm. Kincaid Davis, of Fairfield District; but I had the honor of the acquaintance of Gov. Perry, and though differing

from him in political views, always respected him as a patriot, a statesman, and a high-toned honorable Christian gentleman. I need not say that I always felt flattered that he never failed to recognize me, and to speak cordially to me, whenever we met during his visits to the City by the Sea, though I was so much younger than he.

I have been especially interested in the reminiscences of the public men, nearly every one of whom are now passed away, while my wife and daughters have been charmed with the love and devotion which breathe in every one of his letters to you, and which exhibit his true nobility of character more clearly, if possible, than even the record of his long and useful public life could possibly do.

You will allow me also to say that the value of the books is enhanced by their containing your autograph of presentation. With assurances of the highest respect, I am

Very gratefully and sincerely yours,

ZIMMERMAN DAVIS.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Sept. 5th, 1890.

Dear Madam—It is with great pleasure that I have to acknowledge the receipt (by express) of the four books that you have at the instance of Mr. Andrew W. Burnet honored me by presenting, concerning the life and from the pen of the late Governor. They will constitute a highly prized addition to my library—both as to subject matter and the manner of their bestowal.

As Gen. Hampton says in his introduction, “the speeches and writings of Gov. Perry (so ably compiled and edited by your good self) are most worthy of being put in *permanent* form and should be in the hands of all of the young men of the State.”

Their perusal, already begun, will afford much gratification and instruction to my wife (a daughter of the Hon. R. Barnwell Rhett, formerly editor of the *Charleston Mercury*) and myself—to both of whom South Carolina’s *past* is very dear. Of such sons as your lamented and honored husband the State has great reason to be proud. Purity, integrity, singleness of purpose, patriotism—such as dis-

distinguished the late Gov. B. F. Perry and his compeers—will, I ever pray, be in the future, as in the past, the prime characteristics of South Carolina's *statesmen*.

I thank you for including me amongst those deemed worthy to receive copies from your hands, and for your consideration in making me *one* of the recipients of these valuable books. With much respect I am, madam, as always,

Yours obediently,

D. HUGER BACOT.

CHARLESTON, S. C., June 12th, 1890.

Dear Madam—Mrs. Huger and myself have received copies of "Letters of Gov. Benj. Franklin Perry to his Wife," which you were kind enough to send us. We truly appreciate the compliment and beg to return our acknowledgments for the same. These volumes will be treasured as souvenirs of one of South Carolina's most distinguished sons. Judge Huger, who is so frequently mentioned in these letters, was the grand father of Mrs. Huger. I have long known that Judge Huger entertained the deepest respect and affectionate regards for Gov. Perry.

With renewed thanks from Mrs. Huger and myself for your consideration, I am

Respectfully and truly yours, WM. H. HUGER, M. D.

CHARLESTON, S. C., 20th Feb., 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Allow me to tender you my sincere thanks for the volume of Sketches by your late illustrious husband, Gov. Perry, and also for the volume of his Reminiscences and Speeches. I think you have conferred a benefit upon the young men of the State, in having these published. I as a citizen of the State thank you for so doing. I shall preserve the copies sent me as mementoes of South Carolina's departed statesman and patriot.

Please allow me to thank you for sending me the first and second series of the late Governor Perry's letters which you have published. They are interesting in themselves, very interesting, as they tell of men and scenes—also for

views of the past. The glimpses of home life and political activity in South Carolina so many years ago, bring vividly before one that part of our State's history. But they are also valuable as they preserve in permanent form the concurrent history of interesting times in our State by so observant and capable a critic as Gov. Perry. I often wish that more attention was paid by all of us to our past history, as a means of education to the youth of the country. It is done so much more in other States. I am glad you have made so valuable a contribution towards this matter in our State.

With the highest respect, I am yours truly,

AUGUSTINE T. SMYTHE.

BISHOP'S HOUSE, DAVENPORT, IOWA,

March 13th, 1891.

Dear Madam—Permit me to thank you most heartily for the volumes you have kindly sent me of your honored husband's works. I shall prize them, not alone for their intrinsic worth, but also as the fruits of the literary labor of one of my own name and family.

Again thanking you for your kind remembrance, believe me, dear madam, Very truly yours,

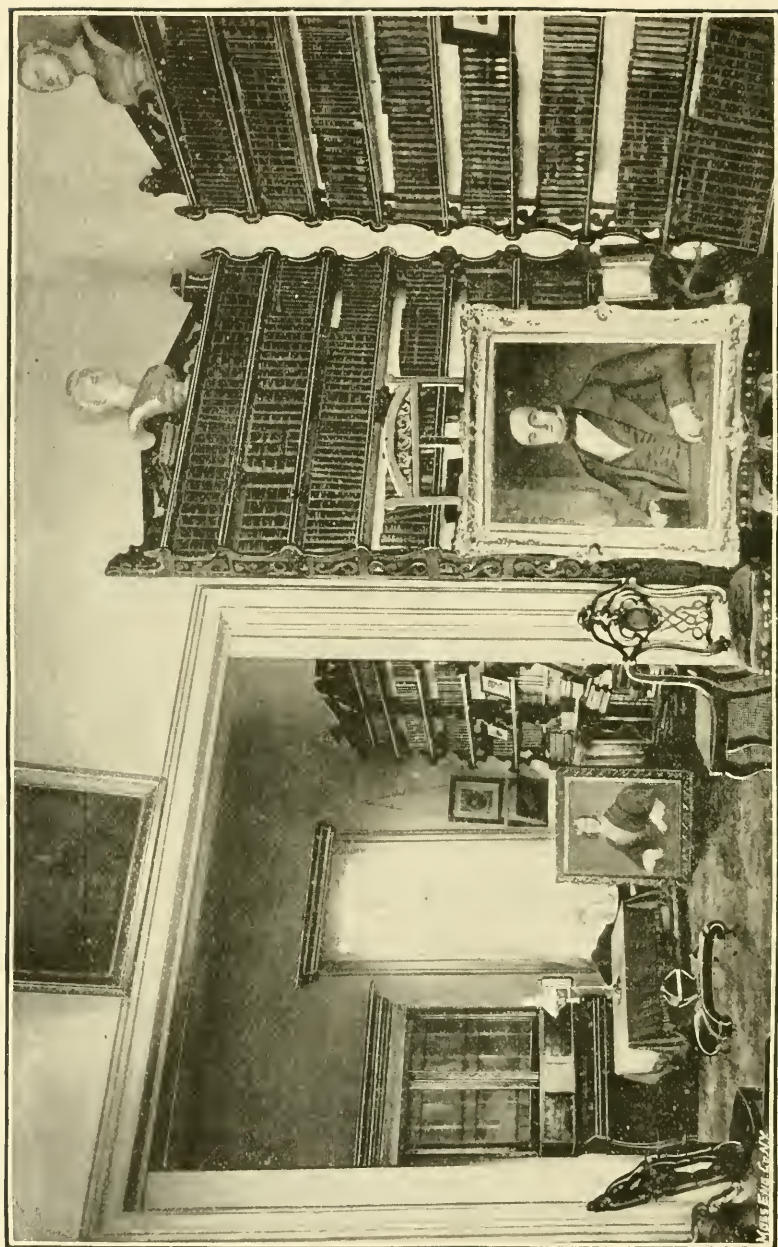
WILLIAM STEVENS PERRY,

Bishop of Iowa.

RICHMOND, VA., March 10th, 1891.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I beg leave to thank you for the works of your honored husband. I have been much interested in them, and am glad that this memorial of so noble representative of the Old South has been published. He was a wise man. It is easy enough to see the wisdom now, but his wisdom at the time in the midst of universal delirium is the impressive part.

I appreciate, as only few can, the devotion to a memory which has induced you to give the world a memorial of the life which in its full purity was known to you alone. The heart longs to have all men know what it knows of its beloved. You have done the work well. These letters, ad-



LIBRARY AT SANS-SOUCI.

dressess and sketches constitute not only a memorial of your husband; they are at the same time a valuable contribution to the literature of the South. One cannot fail to obtain from them a conception of a lofty life. I beg to thank you for having collated and given them to the world. I have personally received from them an impression of a most vigorous and noble personality, and I congratulate you earnestly on the successful result of your labor of love.

Pray accept my thanks for your kind words about my stories. I have tried to depict just the life which produced such men as your husband. If I have at all succeeded it is a sufficient reward.

Yours very truly, and with great respect,

THOS. NELSON PAGE.

MONROE, MICHIGAN, Feb. 28th, 1891.

Dear Dr. Perry—Your letter and "Tribute" reached me last night. I am delighted with both. To you for your kind remembrances and expressions of similarity of feelings—and to the "Tribute" for acquainting me that your noble and talented father once in a dialogue personated my favorite hero, "William Wallace." One the hero and martyr for his country—and the other, though once persecuted and reviled—*now* "the pride of his State."

In Wallace's life we are afforded an opportunity of seeing just how far the petty jealousies of some of the more highly born nobles of the day counteracted the able and successful efforts Wallace was making to free Scotland from England's injustice and tyranny. And it is here that the heroic Wallace shines out resplendent, as he had only at heart his country's freedom and his country's good. With *that* accomplished, he was willing to return to his beloved "Ellerslie" and spend his days in quietude and retirement. Just about as I would imagine your illustrious father would desire to do at beautiful "Sans Souci." Scotland always was hard for foreigners to rule—and I think I am quite a striking example of a Scotchman. Were I an American I would feel as proud of my State and my home as you possibly can do. And no where that I have ever

visited in this country do I look back to with more pleasure than I do to my late visit to Greenville, and particularly to the day we drove out to Sans Souci and enjoyed your hospitality there. To your brother, B. F. Perry, also, I am indebted for great kindnesses, and hope you will convey my thanks to him and assure him they are not forgotten.

Most sincerely,

JOHN DAVIDSON.

NOTE.—Soubriquet, “Honest” John Davidson.

NOTE.—In December, 1852, Dr. P. E. Griffin (*now* Superintendent of the Insane Asylum, Columbia, S. C.,) *then* a South Carolina College graduate, delivered his graduating speech on commencement day, in the form of a dialogue between “Sir William Wallace” and “Robert Bruce.” He selected Gov. B. F. Perry, then a State Senator from Greenville, to personate “Sir William Wallace,” the hero of the dialogue with Bruce. I am proud and grateful that Dr. Griffin deemed my husband worthy to be compared to “Sir William Wallace,” who was the noblest hero and purest patriot that ever walked this earth. These are the two Heroes and Patriots I adore above all others.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Sept. 22d, 1890.

Dear Madam—Permit me to return thanks for your kindness in sending me the “Tribute” and “Memoirs” of your estimable husband, Hon. B. F. Perry. I had the honor of his acquaintance, having served in the Legislature with him; and I shall never forget the impression he made on me by his singularly upright and bold utterances on every subject he was called on to participate in debate during the session. If any man had the true “courage of his convictions,” he was that man. He has left a rich legacy to the present and coming generations; and your faithful love has preserved the precious treasures in the works published by you.

I am indebted to you for the volume of “Sketches,” by Ex-Gov. Perry. I shall read with pleasure and instruction this valuable work emanating from the pen of your highly esteemed and patriotic husband, whose name and fame will ever live in the hearts of all true Carolinians.

I have received the book containing “Letters” of your husband addressed and written in the early days of your youth. I have glanced over some of them with much in-

terest, and as they refer to "ye olden days," when I, too, was young, I enjoyed the time spent in reading them. I shall resume the pleasant task again at my leisure and finish the perusal. I will mention the names of two of my friends whom I know would be delighted to receive the books—Rev. G. R. Brackett, pastor Second Presbyterian Church, and Frank F. Whilden, both of this city.

Permit me to wish you many years of health and happiness, enjoying the love and esteem of all your friends. I am, dear madam,

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN S. RIGGS.

(Extract from a letter of Col. Frank M. Reese.)

ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, AUBURN, ALA.,

January 25th, 1890.

My dear Mrs. Perry—I am indebted to you, and thank you for your very interesting letter under date of 19th instant. Should the life of your husband be written by any one of his many admirers, I will be pleased to have a copy.

* * * * *

I mention these reminiscences of the past, thinking perhaps though sad, would be of interest to you, as every thing connected with so distinguished a man as Governor Perry, would be of interest to his friends and admirers.

In those days of political excitement and personal animosities, there was no man more intensely a Union man than my father, the late Hon. David A. Reese. On this issue alluded to, he was elected to the Georgia Senate from Jasper County, Georgia, and he never abandoned his sentiments in reference to a disruption of the Government. He opposed the mode and manner of the Secessionists, and remarked in the streets of this village, which he was visiting when the bells rung at the news of the Secession of your State, "that they were tolling the *death knell of slavery*." You and I know how true was the prophecy. God grant it may be all for the best—but I see no solution to the difficulties that were entailed on us. The problem may work itself out in some manner that has not yet developed itself.

But I find I am writing you a letter longer than I in-

tended; one, too, that may bring up painful memories—if so, my dear madam, pardon me. I remember well in my early boyhood, that some of my relations and my father admired your brave husband—fearless in all that he thought was right, and that he had their sympathies when the political storm clouds of his early manhood were bursting over him in such fury. He stood unblanched amid the storm, nor did he waver at the electric shocks of political *hate* and *persecution*.

Wishing you many days of health and pleasant memories,
 Very sincerely yours,

FRANK M. REESE.

NOTE.—

“A spirit yet unquelled and high,
 That dreams and seeks ascendancy.”

[This article was written March 24th, 1887, in memory of “Governor Benjamin Franklin Perry,” who died December 3rd, 1886, aged 81. I re-publish it in this book out of regard and respect for the author, the venerable Christian soldier, Rev. James C. Furman, who died March 3rd, 1891, four years after his friend, and at the same age, 81. I value this tribute to my husband above all price, and therefore preserve it with other testimonials to his noble character.]

We are indebted to the kindness of Mrs. B. F. Perry for a copy of an address delivered by Governor Perry some forty-three years ago at Erskine College. This reprint is an appropriate and beautiful tribute to the memory of a noble husband by one who in the closest and tenderest of human relationships, loved and admired him while living. Now that his form is no longer seen, and his voice no longer heard, what more natural than the purpose revealed in words penned on the title page of the copy with which we have been favored: “Delivered forty-three years ago, and re-published by his wife *that his words of wisdom may still benefit the rising generation.*”

Governor Perry had a taste for books. In the old mansion which he formerly occupied in Greenville, and in the statelier structure at Sans Souci, he had large apartments for the accommodation of his library. In the midst of an extensive and laborious legal practice, he found time to make himself familiar with these “monuments of wisdom.” According to Bacon’s aphorism, “Reading maketh the full

man; conversation, the ready man; and writing the exact man," he had ample opportunity for treasuring up a large store of information in regard to the great men who have figured in the arena of the world's history. Few cultivated men had a larger stock of facts and anecdotes respecting illustrious men, dead or living, wherewith to illustrate his views. Believing that "history is philosophy teaching by example," he garnered up such material, and turned it to account in his addresses, written and spoken.

In his address to the Literary Societies of Due West, he enforced his counsels by an ample use of historic illustrations.

Those who personally knew the venerable ex-Governor know that with his aspect and port he might fittingly have occupied a seat in that conclave of venerable patriots at the sight of whom Brennus stopped awe-struck at the entrance of the Senate chamber. And his character agreed well with these outward indications. Its most prominent traits, as seen by the public eye, were invincible firmness and fearlessness, an undisguised contempt for every thing base or mean, and a magnanimity which could see and acknowledge the merits of those to whom he stood opposed. A fine illustration of this last quality is furnished in this address. It is a fact in the history of his State that he was opposed to the views of Mr. Calhoun on a great political question of absorbing interest. In these circumstances had he been a small-minded man, he would not have alluded to him without some deprecating insinuation. But instead of that he mentions the great Senator in only the most honorable terms. Hear what he says of Mr. Calhoun:

"Had he been born in England, instead of the United States, he would have graced the brightest period of her history. As an orator and a parliamentary debater, he would have ranked with the Foxes and the Pitts. As a man of genius and a brilliant statesman, he would not have been surpassed by the proudest names which England can boast. In private life, he has always sustained a character pure and spotless. His career in Congress was a most brilliant one. He entered the House of Representatives a very young man, immediately preceding the declaration of war, and his devotion to business, united with his genius and ability, soon placed him at the head of that body, filled, as it was, with the greatest men the country afforded."

These noble words, coming as they do from a political

antagonist, are alike honorable to the writer and to his subject.

Our readers, we are sure, will share with us the pleasure felt in reading the last words of this address, intended for the graduating class, and equally applicable to others in like circumstances.

"In conclusion, gentlemen, let me impress on you, as you are about to leave this institution, to carry with you, and treasure up in perpetual remembrance, those great principles of virtue, morality and religion which have been taught you by your learned president and professors. If you are disposed to regard your happiness and prosperity in this life, and your future welfare in a world to come, these are the lessons to which your minds will most often revert, and which will be the last to depart from your memories. You have long been associated as companions and friends. Let me assure you that early friendships, like early lessons of piety and religion, are the most permanent. You are now going to separate, perhaps forever. In all human probability, your destinies will be cast in different and distant countries. You may never meet again in this world—but let this be your bond of union and sympathy. At night when you have offered up your prayers to God, and in the morning when you have returned your thanks for your preservation during the past night, let your thoughts revert to your Alma Mater and her lessons of wisdom and religion, which was taught you all in common. Go, prosper, and be happy. My earnest and fervent prayers go with you."

These are truly words of wisdom.

JAMES C. FURMAN.

(From the Savannah Daily Times, Feb. 14, 1891.)

MRS. PERRY'S GIFT.

A DISTINGUISHED CAROLINIAN'S WORKS IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Georgia Historical Society has been presented, through Capt. John R. F. Tatnall, with a collection of valuable books, the gift of Mrs. B. F. Perry, widow of the late distinguished Governor of South Carolina.

The works contain the writings of Gov. Perry, who was a most versatile writer and interesting author. His extensive acquaintance with the distinguished men of his time make his "Reminiscences of Public Men" so graphic a picture that after its perusal one almost feels that it was a personal acquaintance with whom he had met and parted.

Gov. Perry was a friend and contemporary of the late Commodore Tatnall. It is an interesting coincidence that

as the years have rolled by, the son of Commodore Tatnall, through the medium of the Georgia Historical Society, should present the dead author's works to the people of his own distinguished father's native State.

Sans Souci, Gov. Perry's homestead, still stands near Greenville, S. C., and is occupied by his sons, the Hon. W. H. Perry, Dr. Hext M. Perry and B. F. Perry. The palatial residence, of which fine steel engravings have been sent to the library, stands on a peak of Paris Mountain. As far as the eye can reach, blue mountain ranges roll, and emerald valleys with their silvery rivulets stretch away into the misty distance, enchanting the senses with wild beauty.

Sans Souci contains the largest and most valuable library in the State of South Carolina, and its rare works of art reveal better than words can express the character and refined taste of its founder.

To every stranger who visits Greenville Sans Souci is an object of attraction, not only on account of its elegant structure and beautiful surroundings, but also because a great man has lived, labored and died there, leaving the heritage of a noble name to those who follow after him.

MRS. MARY E. MORRISON.

[*From the Charleston, (S. C.,) Sunday News, May 18, 1890.*]

LETTERS FROM GOVERNOR B. F. PERRY TO HIS WIFE.

We are indebted to the generous thoughtfulness of Mrs. Perry for a valuable addition to our library. We have before us two volumes of letters. The first series, we learn from the preface, was printed for private circulation by Dr. Hext McCall Perry, now of Philadelphia, as a tribute to the memory of his father, and as a token of affection to his mother. These letters begin in 1836, before Gov. Perry was married, and are continued through the long period of a happy married life. Gov. Perry was a lawyer, politician and editor, and being called away from home from time to time by the exigencies of professional engagements, he wrote to his wife of whatever occupied his attention at the time, thus unconsciously, we may say, contributing to the history of the times. He was intelligent, observant

and truthful. He had large opportunities for seeing and knowing what was going on in his day that was noteworthy. Indeed, not infrequently he himself helped to make make history; and the unconscious testimony of such a witness is valuable to the historian of the future when he shall collate material for a satisfactory history of our State, and shall be describing the events of the middle third of the Nineteenth Century.

We speak of these letters as unconscious testimony, for when a man writes to his affianced bride, or later on to his wife, he does not write for the world at large. His audience is "fit though few;" he never gives a thought to any one in the wide world save to the beloved object whom he is addressing. It is rare, indeed, that a historian finds such a mass of desirable material ready made to his hand. First, because very few men see as much as Gov. Perry took in; second, not one man in ten thousand, even of those who have the opportunity of large observation, will take the trouble to put to paper, from day to day, what he sees and hears. And thirdly, because we rarely find a lady at once devoted, intelligent and thoughtful, to elicit and appreciate such missives, and also carefully to preserve, during the long years of an eventful life, all the letters that had been sent to her by her husband, whenever he had been called away from home.

The second series of these letters is published by Mrs. Perry herself. In a private letter she laments that many of the letters belonging to the series published are mislaid, and holds out the hope that other letters of the thousand received will be published in continuation, from the last letter in second series, December 16th, 1836, some of them of more interest to the general reader; fifty of them written from Washington during the celebrated Gardiner trial in 1853, (Gov. Perry being employed to defend Gardiner,) and in the last days of the administration of President Fillmore, and the first days of President Pierce, and numerous letters from Columbia during the sitting of the Legislature when Secession was pending and resolutions passed to appropriate money to arm the State and build a war steamer, and after the Ordinance of Secession was passed and during the war.

We reiterate what we have said before, that Mrs. Perry in publishing these literary remains of her husband, not only rears a monument to him more enduring than bronze or marble, but she at the same time exhibits her public spirit and patriotism, and makes a generous and invaluable contribution to the literature of her period.

Mrs. Perry is very painstaking, and carefully reads over every copy of every book she sends out, and with her own hand corrects every error or misprint. This will explain, if explanation be necessary, why some of the friends may not yet have received their copies of these recent publications.

Gov. Perry covers, in these letters, the entire field of literature and of life. "De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis" might be written on the title page as the topic considered within the volumes. Thus, for instance, he writes in 1837, to his "dear Lizzy," his *fiancee*: All of our Presidents, without a single exception, were born in the country. Alexander Hamilton was born in the West Indies, far removed from a city. Patrick Henry was emphatically a rustic by birth and education. Clay, Webster and Calhoun were born in the country. To these distinguished names I may also, with great propriety, add those of McDuffie, Hayne and Preston.

Then he goes on to consider a number of distinguished names in British history and literature, and shows the much greater merit of being born in the country. We quote from the letter at random, And we cannot help wondering how many of the young men of our day, and of our up-country, (similarly situated to what Gov. Perry was,) write to their sweethearts in like strain. We pause for a reply.

As a matter of fact, however, we may mention here that Mr. William C. Preston, alluded to above, was born in the city of Philadelphia, not in the country. He was the child of parents who resided in the country, and he was reared in the country; and therefore, for the purpose of Gov. Perry's argument, he was a country boy, notwithstanding the *accident* of his place of birth.

Mrs. Perry's letters are not given, but we can judge somewhat of their contents by Gov. Perry's letters in reply.

These indeed are the letters "we read about"—honest, sensible, and old-fashioned. Folks nowadays do not appear to have time for such scholarly amenities. At all events they lay this flattering unction to their souls, and excuse their intellectual sluggishness and physical indolence by a disingenuous euphemism.

In many respects, certainly the men and the women that were before us merit our admiration, are worthy of all praise, and challenge our imitation.

DR. H. BAER.

[*From the Linden (Ala.) Reporter, December 5th, 1890.*]

Benjamin F. Perry was born in South Carolina in 1805, and died in 1886. He was a member of the Nullification Convention of 1832, served in the Legislature almost continuously. In 1860 he was defeated for the Secession Convention. For the first time the people of Greenville rejected him, but afterwards saw their error and regretted it, and to make amends immediately elected him to the Legislature, without his leaving his office to electioneer. No other man (it was said) could have been elected on such honorable terms. He was re-elected as long as he would consent to serve. He was appointed Provisional Governor by President Johnson and discharged the duties of his office to the satisfaction both of the administration and of his own people. He was a grand figure in Southern politics, and as an earnest advocate of the Union stood almost alone in his State. With a cultivated mind, the pen of a ready writer, and the voice of an eloquent orator, he was ever the advocate of the Union and the opponent of the policy advocated by Rhett, Yancey, and the secession school of politics. To stand up alone in South Carolina against wealth, social influence and political power required courage greater than to face a battery. This Perry did, and it is to the credit of his people that, although they did not agree with him in his Unionism, they recognized his talents and his honesty and kept him in the Legislature. Even when "he was his party to himself" he commanded the respect of his associates and his Union speeches were listened to and his moral worth recognized

by his opponents. Again and again Benjamin F. Perry was the only member of the South Carolina Legislature to vote "No." Still his opponents gave him places of honor. He was not a college man, but was for years one of the Trustees of the South Carolina College. He was always a member of the leading committees. At the Bar and in social life he was the associate and friend of Hampton, Preston, Rhett, Calhoun, Huger and Harper. There is but one explanation of this: B. F. Perry was a brave, honest gentleman, as decidedly a Southerner as Rhett, Yancey or Jeff. Davis, but he believed Southern rights and prosperity could only be maintained in the Union, and that secession was a political blunder and like all such blunders a political crime. When the State seceded he deplored the folly but was true to his people. The Confederacy received no wounds from the hands of the great Union man of South Carolina. It is remarkable that this Union man declared, if he had anticipated the miseries of reconstruction he would have urged the people of the South to die in the last ditch rather than surrender.

Since the Governor's death his widow has published three volumes of his writings. Two are sketches and biographical notices of eminent men, and speeches by Gov. Perry on various occasions. They are very readable books, and to Carolinians deeply interesting. From them one can learn more of the history of our people and of our great men than from half the so-called standard histories. Read what Perry says of Gov. John Rutledge, Col. Roebuck, Gen. Sumter and Col. Cleveland, and you will know something about the character of the men of the Revolution. From his pictures of Washington, Jefferson, Marshall, Madison and Hamilton, you can get clear ideas of American politics. The Union side of the Nullification Convention is valuable history. We commend it to our readers.

The other volumes of Gov. Perry's writings are letters to his wife. Two hundred out of the many hundreds he wrote, beginning in 1836 when she was Miss "Lizzie McCall," to 1847. It is hard to find in the English language anything to equal these letters. They are simply charming, and one reads and only regrets Mrs. Perry's are not published. No letters in English literature, unless it be

those of Cowper, the poet, written years ago and under different surroundings, can in our opinion compare with them. Mrs. Perry's tribute to her dead husband is nobler than any monument of marble. His good deeds are made immortal by the art preservative of all arts.

The writer thanks Mrs. Perry for her kind remembrance. The books were an unexpected but welcome gift, and he regrets that this is not a large paper in which full justice might be done to the genius, the eloquence, the courage and the patriotism of one of the greatest men of the Nineteenth Century.

EUGENE M. McCAA.

[I republish this letter, because I value it most highly. It is from Rev. Dr. H. Melville Jackson, who was our beloved Rector for one year, and is now Assistant Bishop of Alabama.]

300 WEST FRANKLIN STREET, RICHMOND, VA.,
December 13th, 1886.

My dear Mrs. Perry—To-day for the first time I learn of the great bereavement which has fallen upon you. I can measure somewhat the force of the blow, as those who have suffered can always appreciate the sufferings of others; the chord of pain once struck in any bosom will not fail to vibrate again at the touch of sympathy. Ah! my dear friend, I knew your husband but slightly compared with the knowledge possessed by those who lived for years under the genial influence of his presence; but I yield to none in admiration of his splendid qualities, both as man and statesman. He came nearer to my ideal of a public man—a man of affairs—than any I have ever known. Massive the powers of his intellect; stalwart the soul of him; grandly faithful—a very tower of truth. His was a character the possession of which is an education to a community, a State, a country. In these times when a nascent degeneracy threatens to breed for us a puny people, it is something to have known such a man and to hold in one's memory a figure of such noble proportion. You have for a time lost *him*; but you have not lost the solacing comfort which his greatness reflects. Surely of him the engraver can carve with truth upon the stone which marks his final resting place: "The world is better that he lived."

I know that in your loneliness there is a pleasure, sad but sweet, in musing on the memory of what he was, and the proud consolation is yours that he gave you a *name* which he never tarnished; but which he splended with the sunlit glories of nobility, fidelity and truth.

Better consolations are yours, for the earth-born can never equal the heavenly. May the peace of God be on you, and the consolations of the Gospel of His Son your strong support. I ask of Him who ruleth over all, to manifest Himself to you as the God of the widowed, and that He will make proof to you of the everlasting truth of His promise: "As thy day is so shall thy strength be."

As for me, I can only tell you that my soul is stricken, and my sympathy goes out strongly from an unfeigned heart.

Affectionately your friend,

H. MELVILLE JACKSON.

[I republish this letter because the author was one of the truest Christians who ever lived, and I am proud and thankful that my husband's character was so noble as to inspire Rev. James P. Boyce with so sincere a friendship, such love, esteem and admiration, and which was fully reciprocated by my husband.]

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 28th, 1887.

My dear Mrs. Perry—Upon my return Saturday from a few days' absence I found the pamphlet you had sent me. I am very glad that you have reprinted this address of your distinguished husband, thus over forty years after its delivery at Erskine College. It is like old wine; it is better than new. Would that its words of wisdom may make a deep impress upon the minds of many now young, and of many yet unborn who, though not privileged to have known Governor Perry save by report, will yet partake in this way of that wisdom which he so illustriously displayed among those who knew him personally. I esteem it one of my greatest privileges of life to have enjoyed his friendship and confidence. The purity of his character, the nobility and fearlessness of his nature, his firm maintenance of what he thought right and just and patriotic in the midst of contrary influences of the good and great.

and in defiance of the detraction of the base and mean, give a force that cannot be measured to all his words of morality and virtue. He was one of the very few who could handle the pitch of political life and not be defiled. I thank God for the example given in him of one so pure and true a man. No one can tell what an influence it had upon his day and generation. I am glad that you will aid in perpetuating it through the reprint of this pamphlet.

Yours truly,

JAMES P. BOYCE.

NOTE.—“Calm and serene, he sees approaching death
As the safe port ; the peaceful, silent shore,
Where he may rest, life's tedious voyage o'er.”



SKETCH OF GOV. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PERRY.

WRITTEN BY CAPT. CHARLES M. FURMAN, GREENVILLE, S. C.

BENJAMIN F. PERRY—1805-1886.

One of the most imposing figures in the history of his times, was Gov. B. F. Perry, of South Carolina. He possessed a magnificent person, indomitable energy, the courage of a lion, a vigorous intellect and a deep and profound patriotism. He early attained a commanding position, which he held throughout a long and active life. Beginning the practice of law in Greenville, S. C., in 1827, he was soon accorded a high place in his profession, ranking with the first lawyers of a State noted for the character and ability of its legal profession. His eloquence was first exhibited before the juries of his country and for very many years his professional aid was eagerly sought by a large clientage. But his active mind sought other outlets and his bold and independent character led him into the fields of journalism and politics. In 1832 he became the editor of a newspaper—*The Mountaineer*—which, though published in a small country town (Greenville,) was the representative of the Union party in South Carolina, and was conducted with great ability. The excitement created by the nullification controversy did not cause him to swerve from the position which he had conscientiously taken—notwithstanding the fact that his course was bitterly condemned by the great mass of his fellow citizens.

Having distinguished himself by his earnest advocacy of the cause of the Union, he was put in nomination for Congress by his party and was defeated by a majority of only sixty votes out of seven thousand. In 1836 he was elected to the Legislature, and continued to serve for over thirty years. From 1844 to 1848 he represented his County in the State Senate. He took an active part as a legislator, both as a member of important committees and upon the floor, where he was conspicuous as an able and eloquent advocate of measures of reform.

In 1850 when the feeling in favor of secession had be-

come very general, Gov. Perry as a member of the Legislature opposed the calling of a State Convention, and the year following as a member of that Convention was the most conspicuous opponent of the secession movement.

His strong opposition and persistent advocacy of the Union forced the respect and admiration of his most extreme political opponents. At this time he again established a newspaper (*The Southern Patriot*), which was the sole organ of the Union party in South Carolina.

In 1860 he was a delegate to the Convention of the National Democratic party, which met in Charleston, S. C. Upon the withdrawal of the delegates of his own and a number of the other Southern States, he declined to go with them, and amid the hisses of the gallery, made an eloquent appeal to the secessionists, taking the ground that the maintenance of the organization of the National Democratic party was *absolutely essential* to the preservation of the Union, and that the dissolution of the Union would prove the destruction of the South.

As the great crisis drew near he with prescient vision foretold the disaster and ruin which impended, breasting the tide of sectional feeling bravely to the last, though at the cost of personal popularity to himself.

When, however, the die had been cast, he did not stand aloof from his people. But declared that the State was going to ruin—but he would share it with her. He cheerfully accorded his services to her and devoted all his energies to what he believed a hopeless cause.

During the existence of the Southern Confederacy he filled the appointments of Confederate States Commissioner, Confederate States Attorney and District Judge. After the close of the war he was appointed by President Johnson Governor of South Carolina, and actively engaged in reorganizing the State government and restoring the State to her former relations with the Federal government.

At the expiration of his Governorship, the people, grateful to him for having given to them the election of Governor with numerous other benefits previously denied them, to prove their gratitude would have elected him the first Governor of South Carolina elected by the people.

But he preferred a seat in the United States Senate, the only high position he had ever desired. Though so great a lawyer, he was a still greater statesman. He knew politics was his *forte*. He felt within himself the ability to cope with the ablest debator, and in the United States Senate the privilege would be granted him to do good not only to South Carolina, he loved so well, but his great heart, so free from sectional feelings, would extend in good will over the whole United States, and he would be able to make for himself a "national reputation."

South Carolina did justice to him and rewarded him with the highest gift within her power, elected him United States Senator for six years. But alas! the reward came "too late." This great Union man, who had sacrificed all his personal ambition and aspiration for honor and distinction in South Carolina, in defence of the "Union," was treated with *injustice* and *ingratitude*. No difference was made between "Governor B. F. Perry" the *defender* of the *Union*, and the "disunionists," who attempted to break it up. The "Republican party," who ruled in Congress *denied him his seat*.

When the ill-advised reconstruction measures were inaugurated by a partisan Congress, Gov. Perry, indignant at the misrule of the negro, carpet bag and scallawag era, denounced the corruption and infamy of the base horde who were placed in power, who had turned her legislative halls into places for holding foul orgies, and her courts of justice into organs of bribery and oppression. His voice rang out clear and defiant, and his people looked to him for hope and courage. He had the satisfaction at an advanced age of seeing his State restored to a condition of peace and renewed prosperity, and at last died surrounded by hosts of friends and admirers—to whom he had been endeared by those traits of character which he had exhibited throughout his entire public life.

His last days were passed in retirement upon his beautiful estate of "Sans Souci," near the city of Greenville. When his physical powers waned, he maintained to the last an undimmed intellect and enjoyed amid its scholarly surroundings that green old age which his well spent life had so richly earned.

SKETCH OF GOV. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PERRY.

WRITTEN BY COL. I. W. AVERY.

Ex-Gov. Benjamin Franklin Perry, of South Carolina, was born in Pickens County, (now Oconee), S. C., Nov. 20, 1805, and died at his beautiful home "Sans Souci," Greenville, S. C., Dec. 3, 1886, aged 81.

He came of English stock, and his father and mother's father were gallant Revolutionary soldiers. He worked on his father's farm and going to school alternately, until at the age of sixteen, he was sent to a school of reputation at Asheville, N. C. He learnt the Latin Grammar in one week, and out-stripped all his companions. He prepared to enter South Carolina College, but determined not to enter, (a mistake he always regretted.) He early displayed an inclination for politics and when only sixteen, while at Asheville, wrote an article in favor of John C. Calhoun for the Presidency, and when only nineteen was selected to deliver a Fourth of July oration in Greenville, which unfortunately was never published. He read law in Greenville and Columbia, was admitted to the Bar in Columbia, and began the practice of law in Greenville in 1827. As he returned to Greenville in the stage, bright anticipations he indulged in for the future—young, full of bright hopes, only twenty-two years old. He would study hard, and make a fortune, cut a figure at the Bar and in the political world. But even at that early age he had espoused the principles of Washington, and little did he dream that in consequence of his devotion to the Union all his brilliant anticipations of a future of distinction and usefulness in the political world would be frustrated and subject him to cruel persecution.

Twenty years after he writes in his journal, August 1st, 1847:

"The future I imagined to myself as I returned from Columbia, in 1827, after my admission to the Bar, has not been realized, but I have no cause to complain. I have not

treasured up a fortune, but I have had the pleasure of spending what would have amounted to one. I have made very little figure in the world, but I have a charming wife and four lovely children in whose happiness are centered all my worldly hopes. What more could man desire?"

He was a delegate to the Union Convention in 1832, and in the same year became the editor of the *Mountaineer*, a Union paper. Elected a delegate in 1832 to a Convention called to nullify the Tariff Acts of Congress, and in 1833 to a Convention called for the purpose of considering the compromise made by Clay and Calhoun. In 1834 was the Union candidate for Congress. Unfortunately he lived in Mr. Calhoun's Congressional District, who used all his influence against him. Notwithstanding this, he was defeated by a majority of only sixty votes in seven thousand polled, by his popular opponent, Warren R. Davis. Elected State Representative in 1836, and re-elected almost continuously for over thirty years. Elected State Senator in 1844, and Trustee of South Carolina College in 1845, which position he continued to hold until the war. Defeated for Congress in 1846 by the Whig votes and Mr. Calhoun's influence. In 1848 was a Cass Presidential elector-at-large. In 1850 editor of the *Southern Patriot*, the only Union paper in the State. Delegate to the State Convention that met to secede in 1852, but did not secede. Delegate to the historic National Democratic Convention at Charleston in 1860, and remained in the Convention when his colleagues withdrew. He was defeated for the State Secession Convention on account of his Unionism in 1860. The first time in thirty years the people of Greenville ever rejected him. If elected he would have raised his clarion voice in a last appeal against Secession. Confederate Commissioner in 1862, Confederate States District Attorney in 1863, Confederate States District Judge in 1864. In 1865, after the war, appointed Provisional Governor by President Johnson. Elected United States Senator in 1866, but denied his seat by a Republican Congress. Delegate to the Philadelphia Peace Convention in 1866. Delegate to the Seymour National Democratic Convention, New York, in 1868, and to the Tilden Convention, St. Louis, in 1876.

Governor Perry was one of the bravest, most consistent and remarkable public men of the South, and a vital factor in South Carolina, the crucial Southern State in the greatest of modern wars. No statesman of the land showed firmer courage of conviction. An unchanging Unionist, he opposed nullification and secession against the sentiment of his people, and after the war fought the evil Reconstruction of the Republican party. In both cases he wisely prophesied results and braved a bitter public feeling in the face of odium and majorities. In the famous Charleston Convention he boldly declared his Union views amid a storm of hostile hisses. When his State acted he loyally joined her, good naturedly saying, "she was going to the devil, and he would go with her," and gave true support to the South. It was a signal triumph to his integrity that in the fury of a turbulence rarely equalled, he held the respect of all parties. His whole career was able and useful. He was gentleman, scholar, jurist, orator, statesman and patriot. A powerful writer, an eloquent speaker and a man of letters and affairs. A student of events and men, he wrote a host of admirable sketches. He was the most prolific writer in South Carolina. An observer of the times, he illuminated by action and writing the great issues of the day. He made numbers of masterful addresses on public occasions, literary, practical and political, to colleges, on historic days, and to business and public bodies. In office he originated and aided great projects and affected large results. He was a painstaking lawyer, skillful in pleading and a bold and untiring advocate. As a business man he was wise and successful in private and public matters. He pressed the Louisville and Cincinnati Railroad, and was the father of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, and without fee legally secured to Greenville the Baptist Female College. As a legislator he abolished the Parish system, making the basis of representation equal in the upper and lower country, and gave the election of President and Governor to the people. He established the penitentiary, selected the site for the State capital at Columbia, S. C., united the law and equity courts, and divorced the banks from the State. He battled against extravagance and for

the largest popular agency in public affairs. He never counted consequences or quailed before opposition in his duty. His personal appearance was so impressive, it seemed designed by his Maker as a fit habitation for the transcendent qualities he endowed him with. His private character corresponded with his public, "without fear and without reproach." He married in 1837 Miss Elizabeth Frances McCall, neice of the distinguished Robert Y. Hayne, Governor and U. S. Senator of South Carolina. Their married life of nearly fifty years was an ideal one. They had nine children, four survive their father—Mrs. William Beattie, Hon. Wm. H. Perry, Dr. Hext M. Perry and Benj. F. Perry. His wife, with beautiful devotion, has vitalized the rare records of his career in several volumes, preserving his memory in more enduring form than marble or brass.

"To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die."



UNION, S. C., June 2, 1890.

My dear Madam: Your book came to-day, and it would be a difficult task to tell you how glad I was to get it; and though anxious to read it, and sure as I am of the great treat in store for me when I shall have the time to read it, I cannot rest until I tell you how deeply grateful I am for the kind regard which prompted you to send it. I had feared that I had been wholly forgotten. Indeed I felt quite disappointed when some time ago Judge Wallace told me of your having sent him a copy—and there was none for me! Yes, yes, I know that it was very foolish, but I could not help feeling a degree of jealousy about the matter. And then the Judge, Mrs. Wallace and Miss Madge were always talking about what a charming book you had sent, what models of style and diction and sentiment the letters were, and then they would repeat passages from them. Well, I shall go right down there and let them see that they cannot crow over me any longer, for I have a copy too; and really, according to their account, I have quite a treasure in that little volume, and you will believe me, dear Madam, that I prize it no less on account of the giver than for its high literary merit. I take an interest in all that concerns Greenville, on account of my admiration and regard for one particular household, the ladies of which have been my earliest and dearest friends, and for whom I shall ever cherish sentiments of gratitude and esteem, and will ever look back with pleasure to the many happy hours that I have spent under that hospitable roof. It may be, my dear Madam, that I may never again have that pleasure, for my official duties may not call me to your city hereafter as they have in the past, and you will permit me to say now, that I can never forget my debt to you and yours.

Will you please remember me to your daughter, Mrs. Beattie, and to Snowbird, and tell the latter that I have not forgotten my promise about the flowers. She shall have them without fail.

Thanking you again, my dear Madam, for your great kindness in sending the book, and assuring you that I will

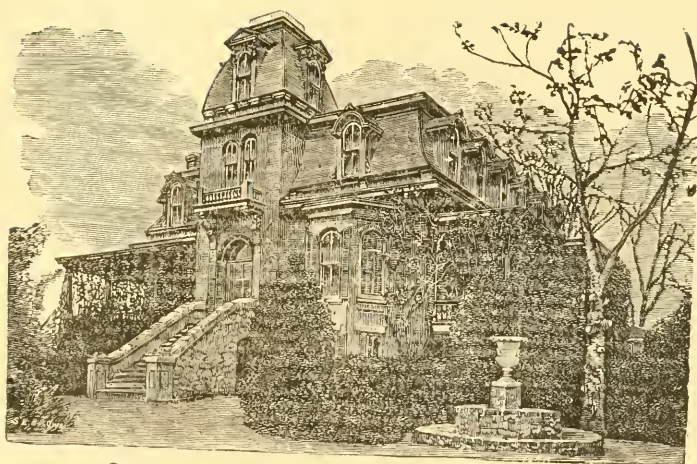
know how to appreciate every page of its contents, I remain
Your friend and obedient servant,

DAVID JOHNSON, SR.

We have our new Rector, Mr. Allston, a man after my own heart—an able preacher, *devout liberal Christian* gentleman of the highest grade. I am sure that you would appreciate him as such.

EXTRACT FROM THE SKETCH OF GOV. PERRY'S LIFE, WRITTEN FOR THE ENCYCLOPEDIA, PUBLISHED BY BRANT & FULLER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

“Gov. Benjamin Franklin Perry, possessed a magnificent person, six feet two inches and a half in height, erect as a soldier, his noble head borne proudly aloft, he would have attracted attention in any assembly in the world. His eyes gray, with dark eyelashes, expressing thoughtfulness, his mouth beautiful, expressing firmness. These two features were especially indicative of his character; he thought deeply, and when once decided, he never changed; his forehead high and expansive, his nose large and well formed, his entire countenance indicated intellect of the highest order, with thoughtfulness, courage and unyielding firmness of purpose. “There was a sublime dignity of conscious right, an incorruptible integrity in the manner and speech of Gov. Perry, that commanded respect and won the admiration of all who heard him.” It may be said of him, as of William Pinckney, one of America's greatest statesmen, “His person was noble, his manners commanding, his voice full, sonorous and impressive, his learning profound and extensive, his flow of language pure and correct, his passions strong and powerful, and his heart filled with love and affection for his country and the liberty and happiness of mankind.”



Sans Souci, Residence of Ex-Gov. Perry.

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